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Ann Arbor Observer

May, 1980

Vol. IV No. 9



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The decline of the Democrats



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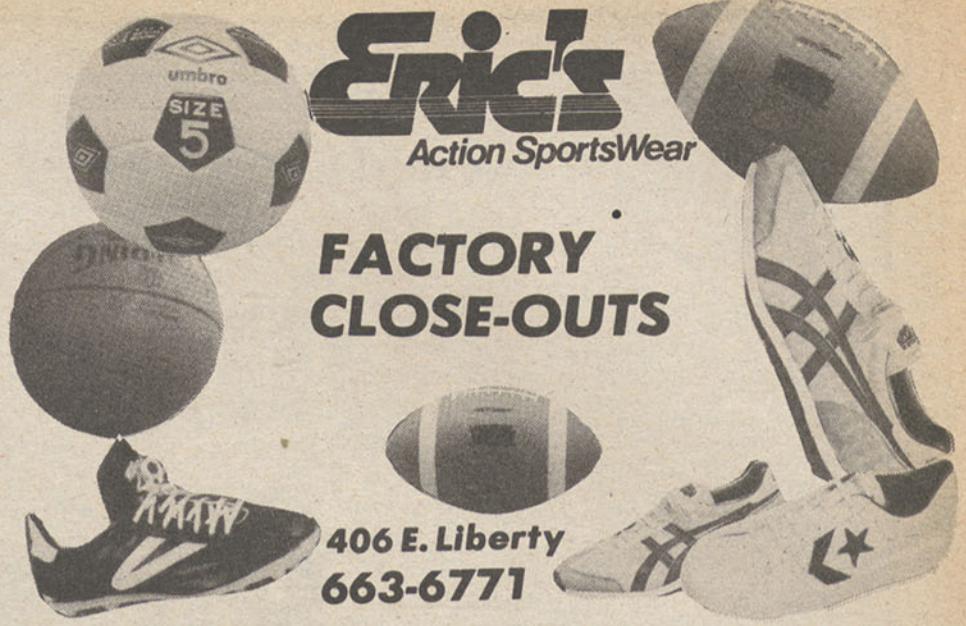
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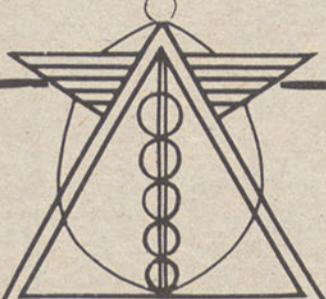
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Ann Arbor Observer

May, 1980

Cover photo by Peter Yates; posterization
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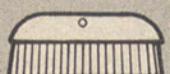
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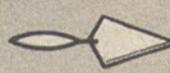
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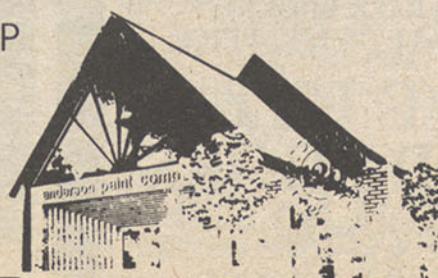
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AROUND TOWN



PETER YATES

At 15, Head Start gets good marks

The often criticized child of the Great Society has quietly been helping kids of the poor.

"Too bad about Head Start. It's dying, isn't it?" remarked the reference desk worker the other day at the city library. She was referring to the federal program begun in 1965 to help preschool-age children of the poor adjust to the formal schooling that lies ahead. One of the most consistent findings in educational research is that children of the poor tend to do a lot less well in school than other children. Head Start was designed to reduce that performance discrepancy by providing classes in which such kids could get many of the middle-class experiences thought to give a special advantage to their more affluent counterparts.

The expectation of Head Start's demise stems from the "ugly duckling" image it gained back in 1969 when — at the tender age of four years — the Great Society offspring was labeled ill-formed and ineffectual. Researchers claimed its students' elevated IQ scores faded after a few years in elementary school. In the early Seventies, the Nixon administration, pointing to the research, almost put an end to the ambitious program.

But now, though the ugly duckling image still lingers, Head Start has matured and blossomed into a veritable swan. On the occasion of its fifteenth birthday party, May 18, its administrators, like local director Carolyn Morado at Mack School, are proudly pointing to a raft of results from long-term national studies showing that in the course of their school careers, Head Start graduates did measurably better in math and reading, had better attendance rates, and were less likely to land in "special education" classes or to be held back a grade than were children in control groups.

Furthermore, they have been more likely to find jobs and go on for further training after high school. These so-called "sleeper" effects have demonstrated the duckling's legitimacy, and Congress has responded with hefty increases in funding that so far have escaped the anti-inflationary knife.

In Ann Arbor this far from moribund program more than doubled in size last year. It now serves 93 three and four-year-olds from local low-income families in three classrooms. Head Start also funds a home-visit program run by the public school system.

That will come as good news to the seventeen four-year-olds who meet each morning in a bright Northside School classroom that is introducing them to the nursery-school world of ramps and trucks, plastic firehats, giant Lego sets, easels, count-to-five, print-your-name, and let's pretend. A very large number of Ann Arbor children take this world for granted, and it has long helped the well-to-do get an academic head start on their low-income schoolmates.

The local program expansion last year placed new classrooms in Mitchell, Northside, and Mack. At Mack, Carolyn Morado supervises the medical, nutritional, and educational parts of the half-day program and Nancy Neal coordinates parent involvement, said to be crucial in Head Start's success. Parental participation is at the heart of the new program for three-year-olds, in which peripatetic professionals make weekly visits to 42 families, loaning puzzles and games and guiding parents in activities to help children develop intellectually and socially.

Parents, children, and staff will join in a Head Start anniversary celebration on May 22.

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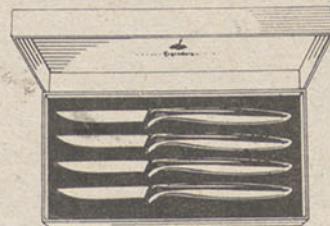
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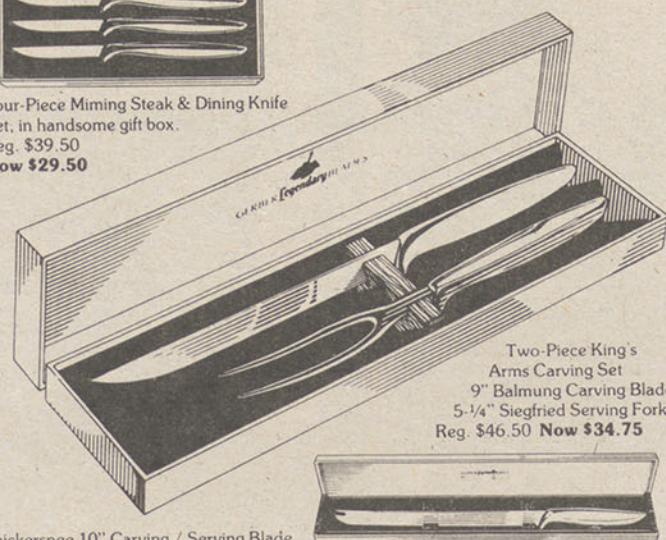
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The basis of spring cleaning was lots of water, hauled in from the pump and heated on the cookstove, then carried throughout the house. Descriptions and prices are from the 1892 Sears Roebuck catalog.

Spring cleaning in the old days was no picnic

Back in 1910 in Ann Arbor, spring meant two weeks of drudgery for Louise Koebnick.

"I sure do remember spring cleaning in the old days. How could anybody who went through it ever forget? Let me tell you, it was hard."

We had called Louise Koebnick, who has lived almost all her long life, much of it as a widow, in a tan asbestos-sided house with a big front porch on West Jefferson. We wanted to find out how the annual routine had changed over the years.

"I'm 83 years old, so my memories of spring cleaning go back more than seventy years," she told us. "I helped my mother with it from the time I was twelve years old. It took a whole day, from sunrise to sunset, to do one room.

"In the early years we had no gas or electricity, of course, so we had to heat water on our wood-burning cookstove. We didn't have indoor plumbing, just a hand pump in the kitchen. We started upstairs with the bedrooms, taking them one at a time.

"The first chore was to take the mattress off the bed and carry it downstairs and outside. We'd slit open the tick and empty the corn shucks it was filled with. Then we'd wash the tick by hand and hang it up to dry. You had to pick a good sunny, breezy day so the tick would dry by nightfall, or somebody wouldn't have a mattress to sleep on that night.

"Then came the carpet. We had a carpet upstairs with a brown background and a flower pattern. It was nailed down. Now, we swept that carpet regularly all year long. We used a dampened broom so the dust wouldn't fly. But of course we didn't have a vacuum cleaner, so once a year we had to un nail that heavy thing and haul it outdoors to beat it with those long-handled beaters to get all the dust out. Under the carpet was a thick pad of newspapers, and we took that up. Then, while the clean carpet was airing outdoors, we washed down the walls with soapy water. Downstairs we had wallpaper, and we cleaned that with a putty-like substance. You rubbed it over the wallpaper to take off the winter grime. It worked like an eraser. After the walls came the woodwork. Everything had to be washed, rinsed, and then dried. Then we washed the windows with hot vinegar water. Of course we had to haul the water upstairs from the kitchen.

"Then we put a new padding of newspapers on the floor and nailed down

that carpet again. Let me tell you, that was a job! First you nailed down one end, then the middle — temporarily — while you worked down the sides, stretching it all tight.

"By this time maybe the mattress tick was dry. If it was, we stuffed it with corn shucks again and sewed it shut. I don't remember if those mattresses were comfortable. They were all we knew.

"We had seven rooms. Meanwhile, the regular housekeeping routines had to go on — cooking, washing clothes, cleaning the outhouse on Saturday. The process of spring cleaning could take a couple of weeks.

"We got a furnace in 1909, and soon after that we got gas for lighting. By and by we got a gas range. Things stayed cleaner with the gas light. Kerosene can burn dirty. But my mother wouldn't let us have gas upstairs where we slept. She was afraid we'd be overcome by gas in the night. So we still used kerosene lamps up there.

"I was orphaned when I was sixteen, and I had three little brothers to bring up. I quit school to take care of my younger brothers, and when they were a little older they had to quit, too, to go to work. I really regretted stopping my education, but at least we were able to stay together. [Mrs. Koebnick's grandchildren made up for her lack of formal schooling. They all have Ph.D.'s.]

"Once I was on my own, one of the first things I did was to get rid of that upstairs carpet. It was just too much for me to handle alone. In 1919 the city passed a law that everybody had to have indoor plumbing, and when we got that in, it was a big help. Then the Edison Company came through the city, going house to house, offering a deal on wiring houses for electricity. Up and down the street, we all signed up. Gas and electricity made automatic hot water possible, and over the years things like electric washing machines and vacuum cleaners began to make spring cleaning easier.

"No, I don't think people spring clean so thoroughly any more. At least when we got done, a room was really clean.

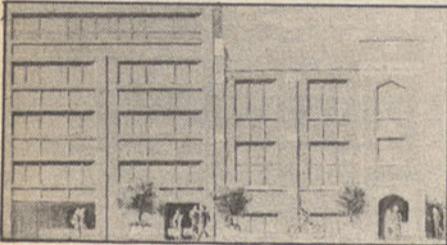
"But don't talk to me about the good old days! I get weary just thinking about all the work I did. Nobody should have to work that hard."

Downtown renovations despite the building slump

Offices planned for six old buildings

High interest rates have stalled most building projects, including, apparently, the large office building at Main and Huron and the Kaplan apartment-commercial project at Main and Packard. But construction on smaller-scale downtown renovation projects is going on right now.

The old Salvation Army building at Washington and Fifth is the focus of an interesting project for offices which combines renovation of the existing three-story building with construction of a new five-story section on the land between the old building and the Ann Arbor Theater. Typically the hardest part of renovating small-scale historic buildings like the old Salvation Army building is how to include expensive and space-demanding elevators, handicapped entrances, and second means of egress required to meet modern fire safety codes. Once all that is squeezed into the old building, quite often there's not enough rentable space left to justify the cost. In this case, however, the new part of the building will provide stairs, elevators, and handicapped entrance for both sections. The floors of the three and five-story sections won't line up with each other but will be joined by stairs, as in a split-level house.



Salvation Army addition, Design Concepts architects.

The Connaught Group, a profit-sharing plan for Chelsea doctors headed by Dr. Michael Papo of the Chelsea Medical Center, is the principal owner of the building. Bob Darvas's firm Design Concepts is doing the architectural and structural design work. The entire project will provide 12,000 square feet of rentable office space in seven or eight units, along with a fifth-floor penthouse residence. The owners are applying for EDC low-interest financing to help finance the project. Completion is scheduled for late this year.

The building's rental agent and property manager, John Swisher III, says it's too

early to arrive at a leasing rate. He expects the space to go quickly. "Downtown office demand continues to be very, very strong," he says, and there's little space available except for the Firehouse Office Center (the former gas company office), which is too large an undivided space for most prospective tenants.

Up East Washington Street in the 300 block is another renovation project that should warm the hearts of old house lovers. Peter Hayden has purchased the three dilapidated houses across from the telephone company and is renovating them along with the large cement block garage behind them for mixed residential and commercial use. Two of the houses, a fine old Greek Revival frame one with delicate sawn trim and a handsome Queen Anne brick house with stone detailing, were part of the controversial parking lot site proposed for Michigan Bell employees a few years ago and turned down by city council.

The buildings had been held speculatively for their land value for many years and allowed to deteriorate. To passersby they appeared to be almost beyond help. But architect Dick Fry of Fry-Peters Associates, which is handling the project, says "a building can take an awful lot of abuse before you have to take it down." Hayden, a long-time old house lover himself, lives in a restored stone farmhouse west of town. He's not saying much about his East Washington project until it's finished. Specifics are continually changing on account of the complexities of meeting city building requirements.

Over the Old Town bar at 122 West Liberty, owner Jerry Pawlicki is creating three tenant office spaces — two two-story spaces with internal stairways in the front part and a one-floor space in the back. Architect Terry Alexander, the project's designer, will take the space facing Liberty Street. Pawlicki, a professional cabinetmaker turned bar owner, is doing the carpentry himself and will make custom-detailed trim in keeping with the 1865 building's age and style. (He made all the Old Town's handsome interior woodwork, including the back bar, moldings, and frames for stained-glass windows.)

Fun with answering machines

How three Ann Arborites address their callers.

Personal telephone answering machines are more and more popular, giving callers a chance to leave a taped message instead of having to call back over and over again. While this may seem like yet another mechanical device in our gadget-cluttered existence, these answering machines give their owners virtually limitless creative opportunities in the message they can record for callers to hear. Take as an example what you hear when you call Steve Bhaerman's house. Suddenly the sharp, staccato voice of Howard Cosell is saying:

Hello everyone, this is Howard Cosell speaking of sports. And speaking of sports, Stephen Bhaerman is not home. But he has reassured me that there is no truth to the rumor that he has been traded to Kansas City for Bobby Del Greco. If you would like to leave a message, and this reporter strongly urges you to do so, please wait for the beep. . . . BEEP

Then there's Mary Vail's Shakespearean message to callers. First, a low, ominous-sounding voice announces slowly, "You've got the answering machine." Then a quicker, more intense voice recites:

To leave or not to leave a message,
That is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to stutter the
"ah's" and "you knows" of outrageous diction
Or to take arms against a sea of cassette tapes
And, by speaking, deface them.

BEEP

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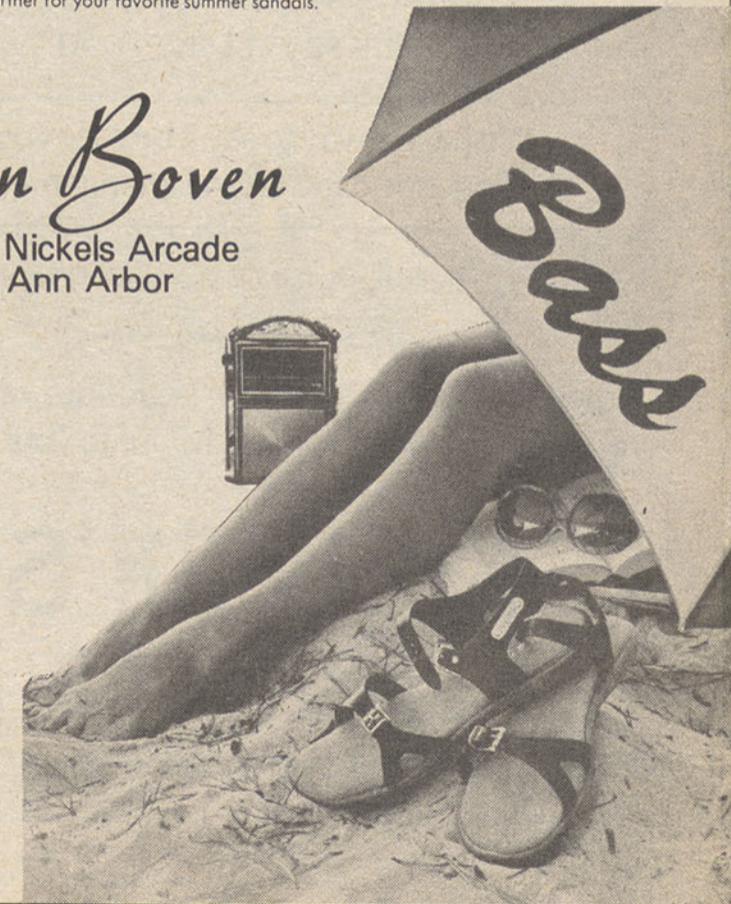
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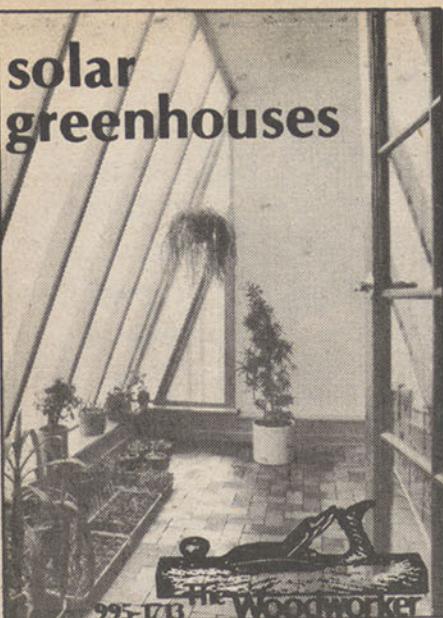
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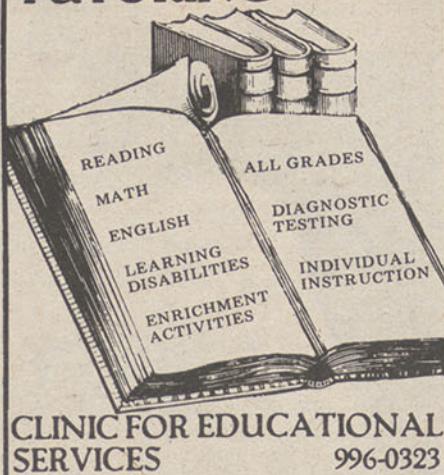
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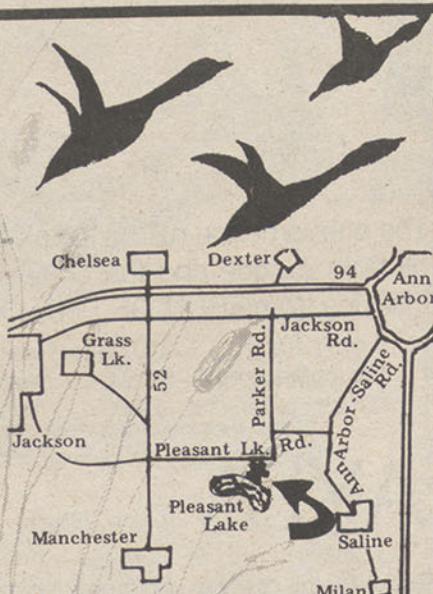
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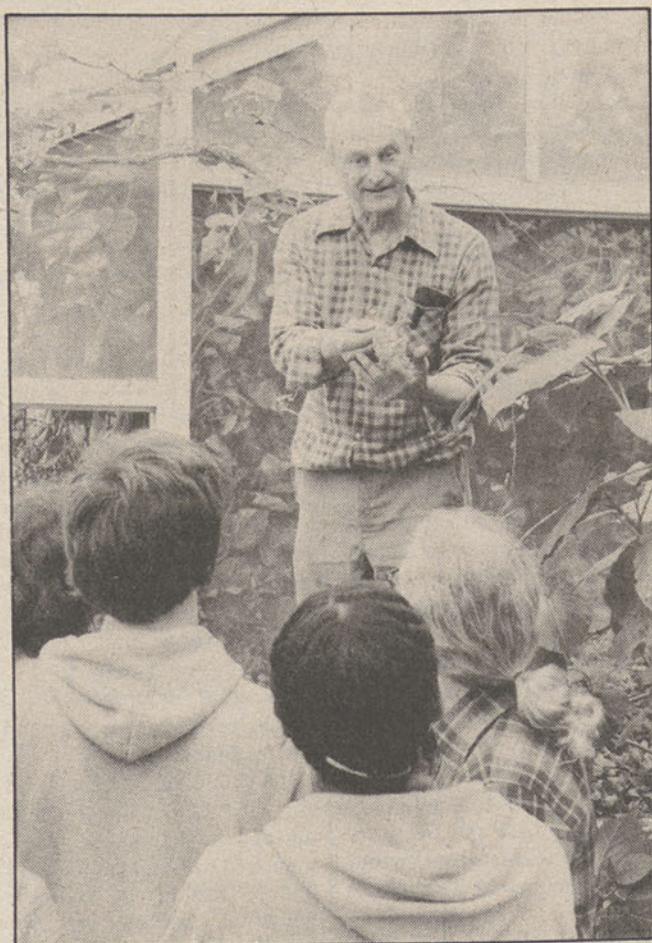
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AROUND TOWN/continued



Head gardener Bob Woodside

LEO SHARKEY

The serendipitous sparrow invasion

When birds invaded the conservatory of the U-M Botanical Gardens, no one realized the beneficial ecological effects they would have.

Sparrows generally go unnoticed in the neighborhood unless they're caught at their infamous practice — stealing fresh seeds from the garden. But at the U-M's Matthaei Botanical Garden out on Dixboro Rd., a family of sparrows that has taken up residence inside the glass-roofed conservatory is quite noticed indeed. In fact, the sparrows have caused a small dispute between head gardener Bob Woodside and his boss in the administration office, Pat Pachuta.

When the sparrows set up housekeeping in the conservatory about a year ago, says Woodside, he didn't have the heart to get rid of them, so he stopped his weekly house-wide fumigation for their sake, only spot-spraying various plants. Pachuta's reaction: "I said to Bob, 'Well, maybe we should get monkeys and call it a zoo.'" Woodside, without clear-cut approval or disapproval, kept the birds, watching the family grow from four to 15 and putting up with Pachuta's occasional ribbing.

At the same time, he found a significant decrease in his need to spray the many exotic plants that fill the building. The red spiders and aphids fought by his sprays of Isotox and Orthene and SPB were vanishing faster than ever before. The birds had to be responsible.

"I'd say these birds have given me a near-perfect environmental control system, wouldn't you?" Woodside says with satisfaction. And Pachuta admits that the birds deserve to stay. □

The birds speed about the conservatory in a constant, ecstatic feast on bugs. The conservatory must have looked like just the

sort of planned community the sparrows wanted, so the four original ones committed themselves to working on their new nests all summer long, making sure they were established by the time the roof vents wheeled shut in the fall. They liked the Cactus Room so much that they put one home in there — a sort of winter resort — high in a great Aztec pillar of cactus that overlooks the sandbathing areas they love.

Woodside smiles as he watches them cavort about their high-speed playground. Reminded of Pachuta's remark about calling the place a zoo, he grins. Maybe a circus is more like it — there's a lot of the circus showman in the 62-year-old Woodside. His reputation for enchanting stories is in part what attracts busload after busload of students, elementary and university alike, to hear his dramatic telling of the passion flower (an uncanny self-contained museum of all the imaginable artifacts of Christ's passion and death), everyman's fruit ("try it, it tastes like anything you want it to"), or the eucalyptus leaves ("Why, that's Vicks' Vapo-rub!").

People in town call him to diagnose their sick plants, commercial greenhouses refer troubled customers to him, and a university professor in Florida, researching the manifestations of plant feelings, checks with Woodside for his opinions.

And when the noise has all quieted down and the room is an awesome sanctuary again, Woodside mentions what he'd like to do in the future. "I'd like to bring in cardinals. Now they really eat the bugs, and..." (he extends his arm across the room) "they'd be so pretty against all this green."

A pocket of devout Republicanism

High voter turnout makes Lansdowne a Democrats' nightmare

If the Ann Arbor Democratic Party had the power to do so, it would almost surely de-annex the Lansdowne subdivision from the City of Ann Arbor. For it is almost as certain as death and taxes that Ward 4, Precinct 2, which consists primarily of Lansdowne, will cast the highest number of votes of any precinct in the April city election, and that better than 80% of them will go to Republican candidates. Furthermore, numerous past and present GOP office-holders, including Fourth Ward Republican Councilman Ed Hood, former Republican Councilmen Rick Hadler and Bruce Benner, and former Republican Mayor Jim Stephenson all call Lansdowne home.

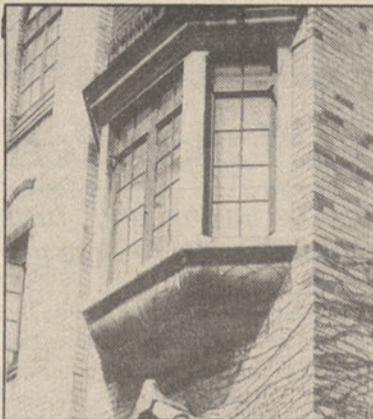
In five of the six Republican city council victories in the present Fourth Ward, Lansdowne has provided the margin of victory. In both of Mayor Louis Belcher's victories, Lansdowne gave him the votes necessary to defeat his Democratic opponents. Nothing keeps Lansdowne voters away from the polls. The average turnout for this April's city election in the city's 67 precincts was 128 voters. In Precinct 4-2, however, 576 people voted, giving 86% of their votes to Republican Councilman Dave Fisher. The highest turnout for any precinct won by a Democrat was 309 voters in Burns Park, Ward 4, Precinct 7. It gave Barbara Perkins, Fisher's opponent, 59% of the vote.

Test of the Town

Do you know where our mystery photo was taken? If you do, you could win a record of your choice from the Liberty Music Shop, 417 East Liberty. Mail your answer to Test of the Town, Ann Arbor Observer, 206 South Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104, and be sure to include your address. (Hand deliveries must be disallowed.) Winners will be drawn from the pool of correct answers and then notified. Entries must be postmarked by May 13.

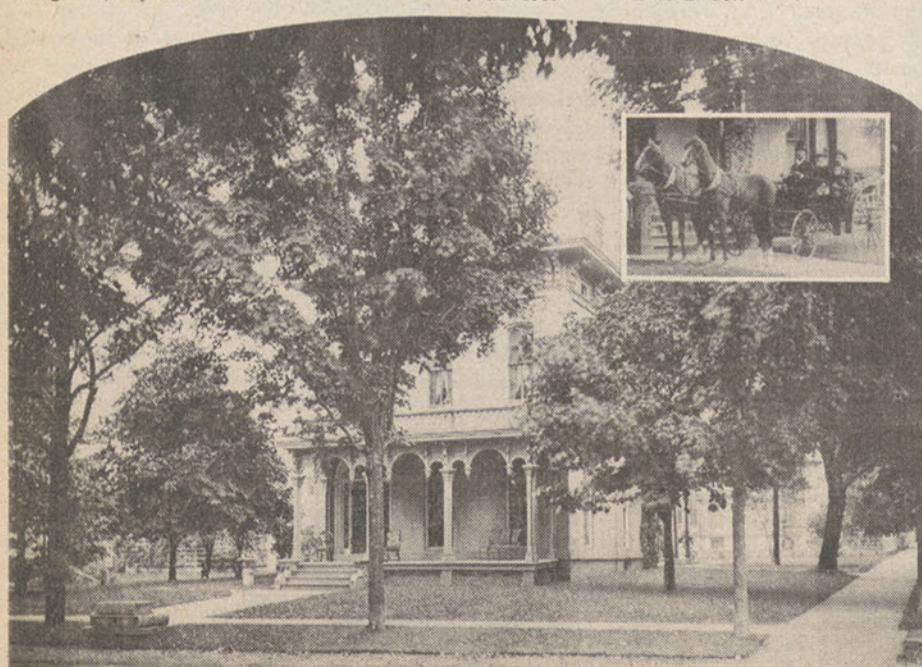
The number of responses to April's mystery photo was an all-time high — 77! Ron Silver and Ina Sandalow were the lucky winners. Several entrants wrote they were perplexed as to just what these large stone "books" on the lawn extension of a house at Berkshire and Dorset were for.

"This object has certainly been a mystery to us," wrote Miriam Heins. "We have speculated that it might have been a hitching post of an inconvenient size and shape, a garden seat for a bookworm, or the tombstone of a book collector." A raft of long-time Ann Arborites, however, knew right away that one of the books bears the word "BEAL" on its margin, that the stone was actually a carriage block used for stepping up into a high type of carriage, and that this artifact was originally in front of the old Junius Beal home on Fifth Avenue, where the Ann Arbor Public Library now stands. When the house was razed, the block was moved to 2009 Vinewood, in front of the house of Beal descendant Mrs. John Edwards, and it now sits to the side of the olive-green residence of Junius Beal's daughter, Loretta Jacobs.



Dorothy Mummary kindly included this interesting note: "Regent Beal was publisher of the Ann Arbor Courier - Register, his father, Rice A. Beal, having purchased Dr. Chase's publishing house across from the old post office on North Main Street. This explains why books were used as the carriage stepping stone. The gravestone on Regent Beal's grave in the family lot at Forest Hill represents a closed book."

Books were a great interest of her father's, Mrs. Jacobs told us. "He loved printing, fine bindings, and first editions. Mr. Clements [William L. Clements, the Bay City industrialist who founded the U-M's Clements Library] was a boyhood friend — he also grew up in Ann Arbor. They talked books together. My father would go up to Bay City to see him. He advised Mr. Clements, 'Don't just leave your books to the University — who knows what might happen to them? Build a building to house your library.' Clements took Beal's advice. — Bob Breck



The old Beal house at Fifth Ave. and William: the horse block where the front walk met the street was used to step up into the high Victoria carriage (inset).

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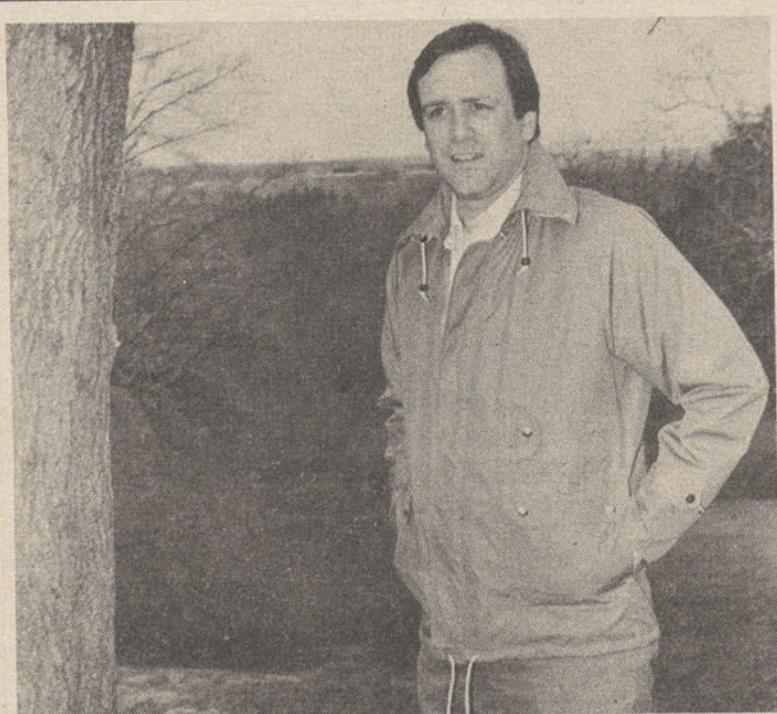
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AROUND TOWN/continued



PETER YATES

Great Lakes Performing Arts

It acts as agent and tutor so aspiring performers can develop in their home territory.

Most musicians seeking to further their careers must sooner or later leave home for the Big City and commercial management — if they can get it. It's a step which has personal costs for them as well as for regional audiences thus deprived of quality young artists at rates local sponsors can still afford.

Into this picture steps an energetic woman in her fifties, Joan Lettvin. She is the assertive, take-charge founder of Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the development of regional audiences and sponsors for regional artists. It is not a booking agent or a commercial management firm, Lettvin stresses. Rather, it is a "career development service" funded by a combination of artists' and consultants' fees, Michigan Council for the Arts grants, and private foundation money. "We are looking at the total artist," says Lettvin. "At repertoire, clothing, image, community service. We're interested in having the artist do those things which will foster and encourage artistic growth. We're not just looking at immediate financial remuneration."

To achieve its goal of "providing regional artists with audiences and administrators," PAA works on several fronts. It pursues residencies, workshops, and performing opportunities for a roster of over 20 Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio artists in music and dance; it works with local arts councils on questions of audience development; and it acts as freelance career consultants to non-roster artists.

The wife of pianist and U-M music school professor Theodore Lettvin, Joan attributes the existence of PAA to her husband's distress at the lack of artistic outlets for new musicians. With her own children growing up, she took on a musical family, founding first the PAA/New England when she and her husband lived in Massachusetts, and then, in 1978, Great Lakes PAA in Ann Arbor.

Many of the artists on PAA's roster — selected solely on the basis of artistic merit — hail from Ann Arbor: pianist Tibor Szász, violinist Miha Pogačnik, tenor John McCollum; members of two early-music groups, The Jongleurs and Musicke of Sundrie Kindes; Duo Vivo saxophonist Laura Hunter and pianist Brian Connelly;

jazz musicians Peter "Madcat" Ruth and Jim Dapogny; jazz ensembles like Dapogny's Chicago Jazz Band and Antares. Lettvin, whose academic degrees are in drama, hopes eventually to add theater, ethnic music, and more dance.

Unlike commercial managements, where a 20% commission is the rule, PAA takes no commission from engagements it secures for roster artists. Rather, they pay a \$750 annual fee plus costs for time (\$10/hour for an artist rep; \$25/hour for Lettvin herself) and materials. All roster artists share costs for graphic design and conferences at which PAA represents them. Often, says Lettvin, free housing and meals are arranged in the host community to help artists hold onto a greater fraction of their concert, residency, and workshop fees. She estimates that under commercial management, artists frequently come away with as little as 20% of their concert fee after figuring commission, hotel, meals, and publicity.

PAA roster artists we contacted generally felt they had invested in a promising — and important — idea. Says Enid Sutherland of Musicke of Sundrie Kindes, "The usual approach has been to go to New York and seek your fortune there. The time has come when we should not have to do that to build our careers. We live here."

Although some of those we spoke with had not yet realized a financial payoff under PAA representation, they stressed that the organization itself is still new and growing. Most seemed generally happy with the type, if not always the number, of contacts PAA had made for them. Blues soloist Peter Madcat Ruth, like jazz pianist Jim Dapogny, was after more concert and college dates, rather than nightclub engagements or bar gigs. PAA has done well for him on that score, he feels. Says Madcat, "They seem interested in improving my position in all sorts of ways, rather than in making money for themselves. They send an artist rep when I play in the area, and suggestions they make about my performances are often useful." Madcat's wife, Connie, added that her husband's attitude under PAA representation has changed. "He feels he has a whole group of people constantly behind him. They've given him confidence, as a musician without formal training, to do workshops and residencies, things he never felt comfortable with before."



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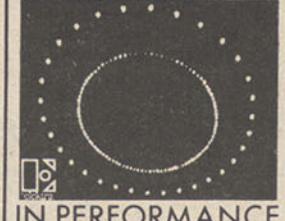
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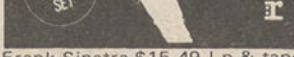
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ANN ARBORITES

Marc Mauer: Pursuing the centuries-old Quaker goal of penal reform

Back in the 1650's, prisoners starving in the castle dungeons of northern England were visited by "Children of the Light" who brought food and intervened with cruel jailors. Many of these "Friends" from the new Quaker sect soon landed in prison themselves or were killed for their radical rejection of the need for sermons and the Bible. They said an "inner light" directly called them to lessen suffering and conflict.

For 330 years, Quakers have continued to seek penal reform. Today, Ann Arbor's Friends carry on this work with the help of 30-year-old Marc Mauer, a "Quakerized" Jewish community organizer from Queens, N.Y. In the last six years Mauer and co-workers have won significant reforms in Michigan's criminal justice system, run a project to bail out impecunious Ann Arborites, and started picking at the root causes of local crime.

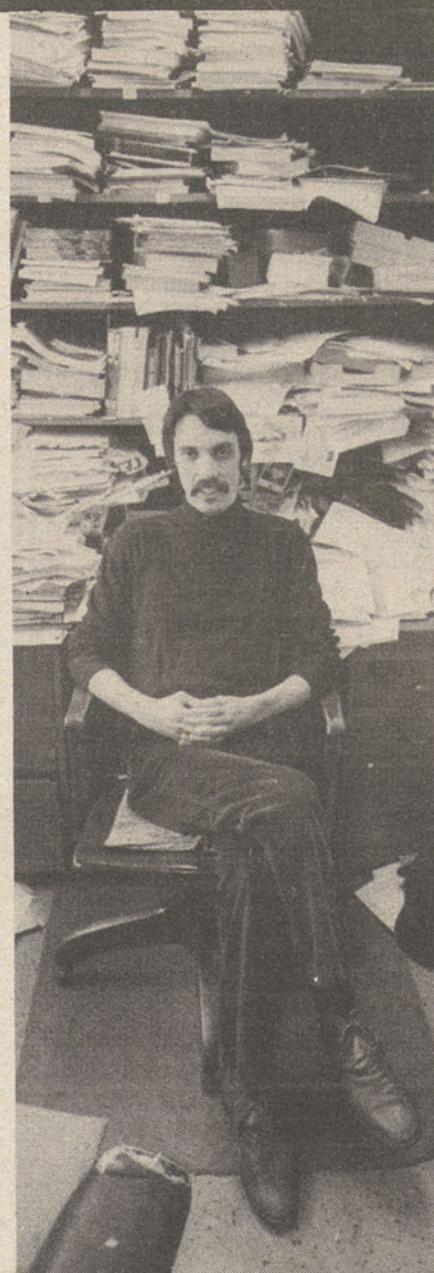
Mauer works out of a converted garage on the alley behind Friends Center on Hill Street. Refurbished by Friends, the garage houses the local branch of the American Friends Service Committee, called by a consulting firm "the best dollar value of any not-for-profit organization we have ever examined." Mauer exemplifies AFSC's productive frugality. Fitted into a tiny 7 x 9 foot office with little room to spare, he rocks in an old-fashioned wooden swivel chair before a homemade desk and a wall filled with open shelves piled high with papers. He is a serious man with grave, dark eyes and a melancholy walrus mustache curling down past the outer edges of his mouth. Mauer turns to the Dostoyevski quotation taped to his battered four-drawer metal file cabinet: "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." Mauer sighs, "We've

made a little difference, but there's still so much to do." □

Mauer's commitment to social change began with his upbringing in New York City. He learned to cherish the diversity of people in the teeming city and to agree with his parents' criticism of social injustice and economic disparity. During college at Stony Brook, he worked for civil rights, peace, and farm worker unions. After traveling in Europe and working in a day care center, he came to the U-M School of Social Work "for more credentials," ironically ending up in 1974 in the Quaker Service Committee, "a place where they don't care if you've ever been to college."

Mauer joined Barbara Cartwright, well-known local Quaker volunteer worker, in looking at the pre-trial status of Ann Arborites accused of crimes. They discovered that over half of those in the local jail are awaiting trial. The prisoners are mostly poor and/or black, as are those convicted, says Mauer, showing the economic and discriminatory factors that are involved in both crime and punishment. Society winks at white collar crime while demanding harsh retribution for "street" offenders, he says.

The Friends concluded that in Ann Arbor, as elsewhere, jail is sometimes used for punishment or "preventive" detention of people whose guilt has not been established. They encouraged local judges to release defendants who have community ties "on their own recognizance" — their promise to appear for trial. Surprisingly, courts that do this find no increase in the rates of those who don't show up if they give defendants timely notice of trial dates. This fact is confirmed by Bettie Magee, who directs the county's Pretrial Investigation Program, begun in response to the advocacy of the



promise to repay the court if they do not appear. Mauer says the anachronistic bondsman exists in no other nation except the U.S. and the Phillipines. It is a uniquely American institution born on the wide-open frontier where defendants strayed off and sheriffs needed help retrieving them, a far cry from today's organized, computerized police network. The Friends claim that abuses arise when business — in the form of the bail bondsman — gets mixed with quasi-judicial functions, often determining which defendants will go free or remain incarcerated.

To combat the practice of using bondsman, the local Friends group first gave defendants an alternative by organizing their own bail fund. Then they attacked the system all-out when Cartwright herself was charged an illegally high fee in Detroit while paying bail for a defendant. In 1979, the Friends, with allied groups, won a \$22-million-dollar class action suit in which the Michigan Court of Appeals reaffirmed the legal fee limit of 10% and prohibited bondsman's demands for collateral. Bondsman's past customers may win reimbursement for damages as a result of the suit.

On top of this success, the Friends attracted the attention of the State Supreme Court with information describing how courts in several other states arrange for defendants to leave a cash deposit with the court instead of paying a fee to a bondsman. These deposits are refunded when the defendant appears for trial. The Friends were elated when the Supreme Court installed a rule making court deposits an option in Michigan. Mauer says with satisfaction that courts in Ann Arbor and around the state are increasingly using the deposit system and that the influence of bondsman has weakened. He adds that there has been no increase in the low percentage of people who skip trial.

Now, says Mauer, the Friends are lobbying for alternatives to jail and prison like half-way houses, drug and alcohol programs, repayment to victims of crime, community service work, and — a favorite Friends approach — the Neighborhood Justice Center, where trained mediators help people settle personal disputes before they escalate to violence or crime. □

Friends and the local bar association in 1974. Release on recognizance has since become common in local courts.

Next, the Friends attacked the role of the bail bondsman, noting that most well-off defendants raise their own bail money and go free while the poor must pay the bondsman a substantial fee in exchange for his

Zibby Oneal: Her new starkly realistic book for teenagers is getting national attention

Zibby Oneal, with three children's books already to her credit, has a new novel coming out. *The Language of Goldfish* will be published by Viking Press on April 14. It is her most ambitious book to date.

Pre-publication reviews in newspapers and library publications have been excellent. Described by the publisher as "the story of a young girl's tense confrontation with childhood's end," the book is expected to have wide appeal for adults as well as adolescents. Author Oneal says of the book, "It's about change, about leaving childhood for adulthood, which is difficult for everybody. But in this case, the problems of change overwhelm a thirteen-year-old girl, pushing her to the edge of madness. The story is about how she reels

herself back in to the point where she can cope with the world again.

"Now I have to cope with reviews," Oneal explained. "They've really been very favorable so far. But this book took a lot out of me personally, so when a reviewer suggests that not everything about it is absolutely perfect, I think, 'What does he know?' Viking is starting out with a printing of twenty thousand and strong promotion. I expect I'll be asked to help with that by doing press interviews and TV appearances. In a funny way I have the feeling the book isn't mine any more. It's theirs."

"You asked how it feels. Well, I feel happy — very happy. But I also feel distracted. Now I have a new book in my head and, more than anything, I want to settle down to writing it." □



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ANN ARBORITES/continued

Steve Newhouse: Wild rock 'n roller and sheep-loving biologist can't decide which course to take.

A lot of Ann Arborites have too many irons in the fire, and perhaps no one in town better exemplifies this than versatile Steve Newhouse. Newhouse is best known as the lead guitarist of the Steve Newhouse Band, which makes frequent appearances at Mr. Flood's Party on Liberty Street, among other places. Newhouse is also a scientist, presently writing his doctoral dissertation on the social behavior of a rare breed of Barbary sheep which live in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico. Moreover, Newhouse works full time as a manager and cook at the Central Cafe on Main Street.

"I'm torn between music and biology," says Newhouse. "One of my biggest problems is that I've never really been able to be into any one thing. I've never had the guts to be just a biologist or just a musician — or just anything. I've always ended up doing both and concentrating on neither."

The 34-year-old Long Island native can be seen about town walking bow-legged in jeans and boots, sporting a black, wide-brimmed cowboy hat and wearing a sturdy western shirt, one of a collection he has sewn himself. He first came to Ann Arbor in 1969 to pursue a degree in wildlife management at the U-M. He stayed until 1973, when he left for New Mexico to do his doctoral research. The allure of the canyons and the ranch country kept him there for five years. His experiences in New Mexico, especially the year spent working fulltime as a cowhand, he considers the most worthwhile of his life. "I learned how to do my own electrical wiring, weld, work cattle — things a lot of college professors don't consider very important."

Newhouse returned to Ann Arbor last August, ostensibly to finish his thesis, which is now three years overdue. He wants it done by the end of summer, but admits he has already fallen behind schedule with all his outside activities.

When Newhouse arrived back in Ann Arbor, he found a job driving trucks and soon afterward landed a breakfast cook position at the Central. That job, he says, is "sometimes a drag" but can also be a "challenge — especially preparing eggs during rush so that they taste good."

As soon as he finishes his dissertation, Newhouse must decide whether to get a teaching position in his field or try to make a career of music. "I came back to Ann Arbor because all my friends are here, and because I needed to be in an academic setting to write my thesis. I like the town because it has a very warm, loose atmosphere that you wouldn't find in a town larger than this. And it has a lot of hip things culturally that you wouldn't find in a smaller town."

To make it in music, however, Newhouse will have to leave Ann Arbor again. Michigan, he says, does not support enough good clubs to make it worthwhile for a country-blues-rock guitarist to stay.

Newhouse knows that the music field is a tough one to break into. But he points to the bands he had during his first stint in Ann Arbor. Through those bands, he has

attracted a large local following. His wild antics and raucous brand of rock'n'roll contrast with his low-key off-stage manner. Sometimes he jammed with members of Commander Cody's band, which has since gone on to national fame. "I know I'll never be a Bob Dylan, or even a Charlie Daniels. But I've proven I can make it in Ann Arbor, and I think I can be successful enough to earn a good living.

"Charlie Daniels is sort of my idol because I keep thinking that I'm 34 years old and I'm a pretty good guitar player and I'm a real good performer, but I've never sat down and really tried very hard to make it with any group that had the potential to really make it big. But I look at Charlie, and he's over forty. He didn't make it big until a couple of years ago."

Newhouse became interested in country music when he was a teenager in Long Island. "It is very honest music. Sometimes it is kind of trite, but I like songs with a real hook to 'em."

But what if he doesn't make it?

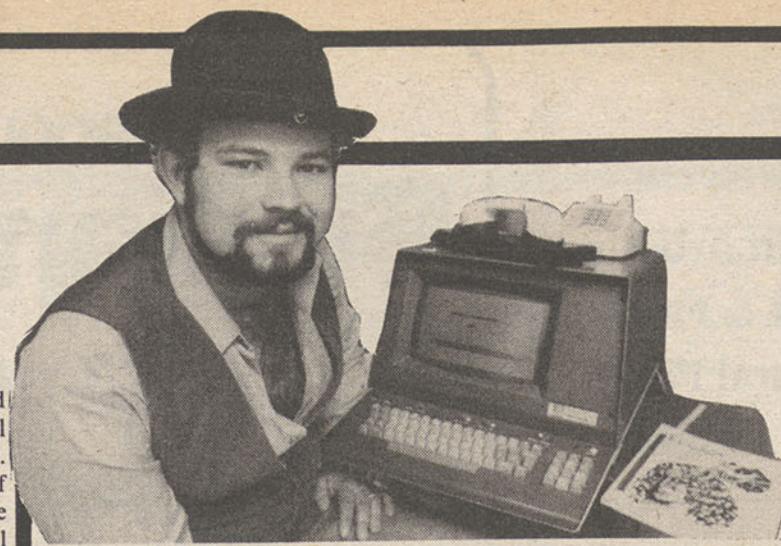
"Well, I don't want to be sixty and playing in a dingy bar once a week for thirty dollars a night. It's the same thing about being a cowboy: I love it, but I wouldn't want to be a cowboy at sixty, all broken up and making four dollars an hour."

"If it doesn't work out, I think I would like to become a teacher. I'd like to teach biology at a small university somewhere in the west or in Canada. I'd like to be somewhere where I can live out in the country and still not live too far from the university where I would teach."

"But all that is very far off. Jobs are very tough to find in my field, and I don't know when I'll finish the thesis. It is very hard to predict what I will be doing in the future."



PETER YATES



PETER YATES

David Feldt: Inventor of a game that mimics futuristic life at \$5 a move.

We've been intrigued to learn about fifteen Ann Arborites who have adopted fictional alter egos and have spent the last year evading space octopi and escaping from forcefields in an unfinished science fiction novel. What's more, the author of this ongoing tale moves these futuristic characters about in obedience to the commands of their owners.

This unusual caper is the brainchild of 23-year-old writer and gamester David Feldt, a longtime Ann Arborite who is currently spending most of his time on a farm in Hillsdale County, connected to his characters by the post office. Feldt is running a play-by-mail adventure game akin to "Dungeons and Dragons," in which players — for \$5 a turn — launch their fictional personae on an escapade, receiving back from Feldt a chapter in his Sci Fi novel detailing their heroic deeds and unexpected encounters with demonic mutants, forcefields, and traps that are hidden at every step in Feldt's secret gamemaster's documentation book. The players' only hope for survival is in learning the lay of the land with questions they send Feldt before risking a turn — often weeks in the planning stage.

In real life the gamesters include a cook, a computer programmer, a professor of urban planning, a social worker, a lawyer, and a night watchman. One year ago, at the start of the game, each received from Feldt an elaborate looseleaf notebook of maps and sketches by artist Shannon Berger, a description of the six planets on which the main action is taking place 2000 years from now, and an invitation to select one of two nascent characters waiting to take shape — characters unsentimentally fathered by Feldt via several rolls of twenty-sided dice in a process known as "rolling up the character." A series of rolls determines the adventurer's attributes — charisma, intellect, dexterity, extra-sensory power, etc. One unfortunate player got a zero on physical strength and has spent the year unsuccessfully trying to get out of bed.

Other players have selected more far-ranging quests. Feldt says the game lets people try out personal projects and fantasies. One player confided to us that his goals include finishing space academy and becoming a god. Another is trying to escape to a more congenial planet. The professor of urban planning claims to be using the game for professional purposes by studying a decentralized utopian community, but his wife of many years was recently intrigued to learn that her portly husband's nimble young alter ego was about to lose his virginity in a passionate affair with a planetary princess.

The play-by-mail game was Feldt's answer to his own frustration-filled love affair

with games like "Dungeons and Dragons." Feldt says that for hundreds of thousands of players all over the world these fantasy games have become the most absorbing fact of life, adding, "It's an addiction as dangerous as heroin." These highly complex adventure games came into vogue in the last half-decade. They often take months or years to complete. Players are challenged to chart a quest and save their fantasy characters from peril by mastering all the minutiae of a dangerous space-time location that is created by one participant, the gamemaster, who prepares maps, descriptions, and lists of options before the game.

Feldt's frustration arises, he says, from the capricious tendency of gamemasters to invent new worlds that totally disregard the laws of nature or logic. As a result months of Einsteinian analysis may gain players little knowledge that is useful in the game or in their own later lives. Wouldn't it be great, Feldt thought, if gamemasters could base their fantasies on realistic systems of logic, physics, evolution, and human interaction, making the games more satisfying and leaving players with information and abilities that could actually be of later use to them?

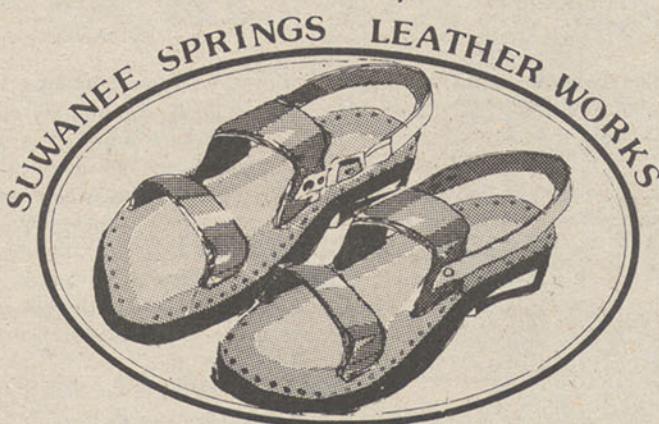
In 1976 Feldt invited a group of friends to help him develop such a game using the techniques he had seen his father, U-M professor Allan Feldt, use in instructional gaming. For the next two and a half years a marathon game ensued, based in a friend's townhouse on Arrowwood Trail. Players came and went, some moving in for months at a time to participate in a struggle among space pirates and scholars battling for power and treasure in a disintegrating intergalactic empire. Their adventures on a wide variety of planets let Feldt develop a data base about logic, weather, biological systems, and physics. When they were finished, he printed his findings in an \$8 game construction manual that rapidly sold out its 1200-copy run.

Then, a year and a half ago Feldt became temporarily immobilized, having fractured his spine in an auto accident. Play-by-mail occurred to him as a solution to his boredom and pain. He put his reality-based systems into the participatory novel-game.

Feldt is on his feet now. A man of massive energy and enthusiasm, he is farming in Hillsdale County; building a solar house with his new bride, artist Shannon Berger; co-directing the Hillsdale census operation; writing; and developing games for U-M learning labs. He is looking for ways to streamline play-by-mail, putting the documentation of terrain and traps into a computer while leaving himself the fun of creating the ongoing plot.

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Hypothermia & Safety, May 14.

Before getting out in the wilds, it is wise to be well-versed in what to do if something goes wrong.

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Trails on a Tank, May 28. A sharing of ideas about good places to camp, pack and canoe that are within a gas tank's reach of Ann Arbor.

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Bruce and Tucker Comstock: *Ann Arbor's extraordinary balloonists*

Ann Arbor is one of the few places in the world where you can look up in the sky on a fine summer evening and see a flotilla of balloons wafting by like a gentle, multicolored vision from the *Wizard of Oz*.

This county has almost one percent — 27 — of the approximately 3,000 U.S. hot-air balloonists licensed to fly balloons by the F.A.A. All but one of the 27 have been trained by Ann Arborites Bruce and Tucker Comstock, who live in a contemporary ranch house on the city's western outskirts.

By day the Comstocks, both in their thirties, are mild-mannered data systems analysts at the U-M. Evenings and weekends they are two of the best-known balloonists in the country. Bruce is a four-time National Balloon Competition Champion. Tucker is a designated F.A.A. balloon pilot examiner. Besides flying balloons, the Comstocks sell and repair them. In fact, their home basement workshop is the first F.A.A.-certified balloon repair station in the U.S. And starting this spring, the Comstocks will also manufacture balloons by licensing agreement with the British manufacturer, Cameron, whose balloons they have stocked for the last five years. (Baskets for the balloons — made of wicker as they were in the late 1700's when the Montgolfiers invented the sport — will continue to be manufactured in British workshops for the blind.) Average cost for a new balloon:

\$14,000, with a cozy balloon for two going for a rock-bottom price of \$8,500.

With the spring balloon season close at hand, April was a busy repair month for the Comstocks. As we talked, Tucker was hard at work restoring 170 pounds of blue, pink, and white rip-stop nylon balloon which billowed out in front of her industrial Pfaff sewing machine like a deflated Alwin Nikolais set. If you can't sew curtains, forget about being a balloon repairperson, despite Tucker's observation as a former non-sewer that it is more "mind work" than sewing.

Although she took to balloon repair work almost instantly — it is a steady business since balloons need a major overhaul every three to four hundred flight-hours — Tucker's love for the sport itself came a bit more slowly. She remembers her first balloon flight in the summer of 1970 as "terrifying." "But I liked it enough," she adds quickly, "for us to order a balloon."

The Comstocks' interest in balloons predated their actual involvement in ballooning by almost two years. Bruce was an impoverished economics graduate student out mowing his lawn when he saw his first hot-air balloon heading up Broadway. Intrigued, he and Tucker jumped into their car and chased it to its landing site, where they met Bill Grabb, Washtenaw County's first balloonist. Bruce followed up the encounter with inquiries to several

balloon manufacturers, but balloon prices were beyond his means, and he filed the information until two years later, when a \$5 carnival helicopter ride again stirred thoughts of "what it might be like up there, at a similar altitude, without all the noise and vibration." He can remember the exact date of his first flight (June 6, 1970) and his licensing as a pilot (September 25, 1970), although Tucker swears he cannot remember when he met her or their wedding anniversary.

Almost ten years after their first balloon flights, the Comstocks now own three balloons, the largest of which, appropriately named "Hummungy," is the world's fifth largest balloon, capable of lifting a hefty 4,200 pounds. Fully one-third larger than the only two balloons in the U.S. close to it in size, "Hummungy" is all black, a solar balloon designed to take advantage of the sun's rays for loft.

To date, Bruce has logged more than 910 hours in the air (the average flight is one and one-quarter hours); last year alone he flew 120 hours, a stratospheric total compared to most hot-air balloonists' 45. Says Bruce, "I thought I would get bored at about 50 hours, but I just enjoy being up there. You get a neat view of the earth." Asked what qualities balloonists share, Bruce responded unhesitatingly, "An incredible desire to be free," sticking by his answer despite Tucker's protest that the

sentiment was "too schmaltzy."

The challenge of piloting an essentially unsteerable craft to a predetermined target has made Bruce an avid participant in balloon competitions, which are almost entirely precision flying events. To steer, pilots take advantage of directional wind shifts at different altitudes; increasingly acute pilot skills over the last several years have made the competition even tougher. "Five years ago," says Tucker, "if you even got into the target field in competition, you stood a chance of winning; now you pretty much have to be within five feet of the target to win." Bruce's outstanding record in competition has earned him the "Diplôme Montgolfier," the sport's highest honor and an acknowledgment that skill, not luck, is the key to competition success.

Balloonists — of necessity a land-first, ask-later lot — depend heavily on the courtesy of rural landowners, and the Comstocks have nothing but praise for the county residents onto whose fields they have floated down. The only excitement Bruce recalls came not from a landowner but from the law, after a flight he had piloted passed about seven miles from Jackson prison. In the wake of a helicopter escape the year before, anxious guards notified police, who stopped Bruce and a companion as they drove off with their balloon folded in their van.

Jack Garris: *A leader of the counter-revolution looks back.*

We recently got in touch with attorney Jack Garris to find out how he was feeling about the state of our town, our country, and our world. We found him mellower than when we last had talked some years ago. Back in the turbulent summer of 1969, Garris had been in the lead when three thousand concerned citizens marched on City Hall to confront liberal Mayor Bob Harris and city council with a demand that they do something about the permissive conditions in town at that time. After that episode, Garris gained a reputation in those polarized times as one of the city's leading rightwingers.

"That was the most exciting night Ann Arbor has ever seen," Garris reminded us. "I was deeply offended at the kinds of things that were going on back then — the hash bashes in the parks; the White Panthers and the Human Rights Party wielding their heavy influence in city politics, distributing foul and vulgar brochures to our school children; the confrontations with the police and in the ROTC building; showing up at the Democratic County Convention in dirty clothes and bare feet and one of them vilifying Judge Ager. And remember that fellow who disrobed in West Park? What I couldn't understand was why everybody in the Democratic Party knuckled under. That's why I switched parties. I'm still a Republican, and it looks like

I'll be voting for Reagan."

Garris's initial identification with the Democratic party had been strong. He had been the first Democrat from the old Third Ward in twenty-two years to be elected to anything when he was elected to the old Board of Supervisors in the early Fifties. Over the years he had served his party loyally. "I felt that by not protesting what was going on, the Democrats with power and brains like Neil Staebler, who I truly respected, had let us all down. I thought if they wouldn't protest, at least I could. So three thousand of us marched down and demanded, 'Do something or we'll recall all of you.' I think the recall might have succeeded if we'd concentrated our efforts on the mayor and one or two others. We spread ourselves too thin."

□

We asked Garris how he was feeling about things today. "On the bigger issues, I think the American labor movement asked for more than it was entitled to without making their membership quality-control minded and productive. Let me tell you, I tried — really tried — to buy an American car recently. What I saw was junk. In the end I bought a Japanese car for the simple reason that it was better.

"As for taxes, they're too high, of course. I think there's a real undercurrent of tax revolt, and if some political leader doesn't

get hold of the situation, it's going to surface."

Like many Americans, Garris sees the successful space program as proof that coordinated research can solve any problem we have, from cancer to energy. "I think Americans can accomplish anything they put their minds to," he says. "Certainly the energy thing. It's just a matter of will."

What about the mood of the town? How had it changed? "Well, the students are students again, and the teachers are teachers instead of trying to be like the students by going barefoot themselves and letting their hair grow long. Things are better."

"But there's no exciting issue gripping the community. You can't get any spirit worked up for even a simple thing like an anti-litter campaign. Have you ever seen a police officer issue a ticket for littering? Can you imagine what would happen if you went down and swore out a warrant for a litterer you had caught in the act? How many people would be on your side?"

"In my personal life, lots of good things have happened. Our sons Steve and Mike have joined me in the law firm, and our daughter Jacalen, who is sixteen, hopes to come in here as a fourth partner when she gets her law degree. I want to live to see Garris, Garris, Garris, and Garris on that door. My wife Helen works down here with us, too. I get to enjoy hunting and fishing a little more than I used to. And I'm still making candles as a hobby. Come down and see them sometime, and we can talk over the old times some more."



THE MILL REPORT

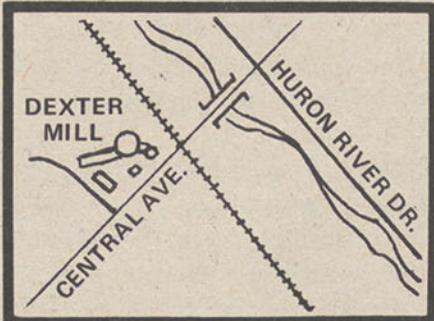
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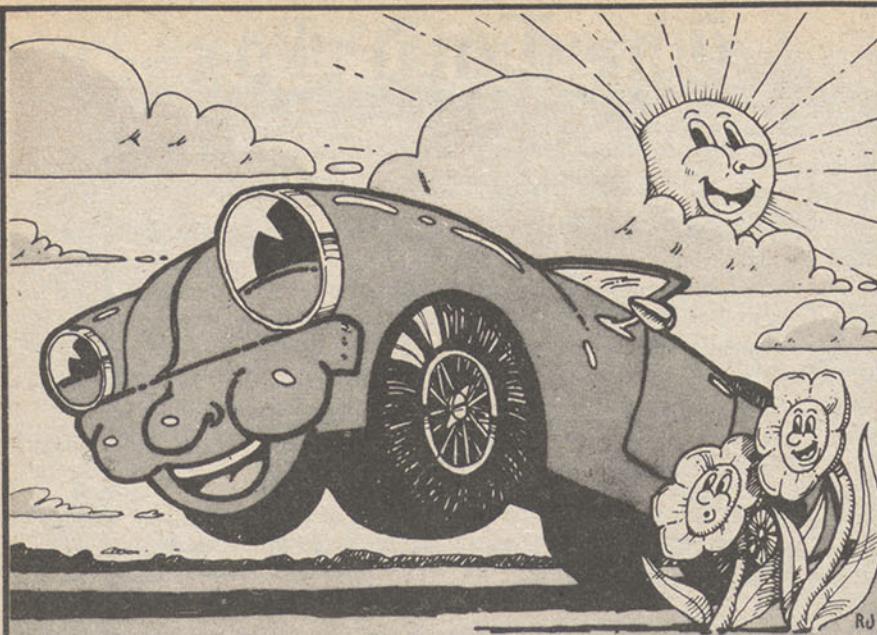
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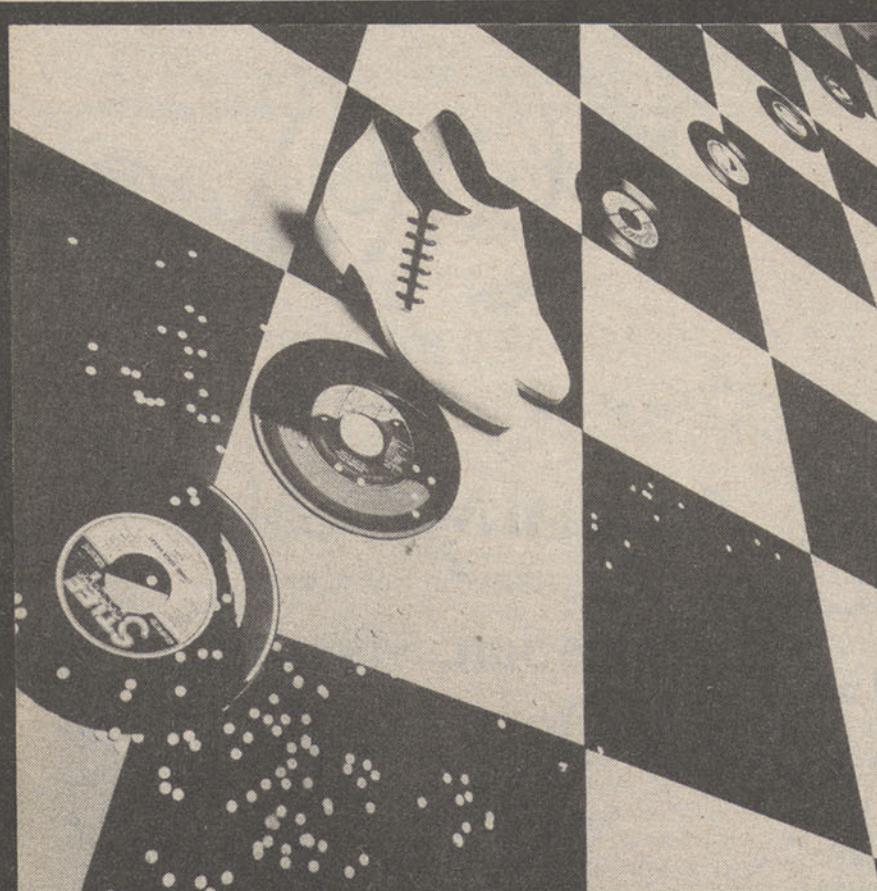
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SUMMING UP

The month's news in review.

1. The Republicans keep rolling

They gave an election April 7, and almost nobody came. Only 9,835 voters showed up to cast ballots for five city council seats and two ballot proposals, the lowest vote total for an Ann Arbor city election since 1962.

Four incumbents were re-elected, and all five council seats stayed in the hands of the same party. The only surprises were some of the victory margins.

First Ward Democrat Susan Greenberg rolled up a typical 2 to 1 margin over Republican challenger Don Hubbard. Second Ward Democrat Earl Greene was re-elected over Republican Toni Burton, but by a much smaller margin than Democrats usually receive in that student-dominated ward. Greene's weak showing probably reflected the effects of a bitter Democratic primary contest in February.

Third Ward Republican Cliff Sheldon was re-elected in that GOP bastion without opposition.

The Fifth Ward always votes Republican, but Joyce Chesbrough's 3 to 1 thrashing of Democrat Tom Bletcher was unprecedented. Chesbrough apparently won the support of some Democrats who were favorably impressed with her past record in city affairs, including such posts as chair of the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority.

The Fourth Ward has traditionally been the scene of close contests, but it wasn't this year. Incumbent Republican David Fisher beat Democratic challenger Barbara Perkins by a 59% to 41% margin, the highest percentage any Republican has received in that ward. Fisher was aided by a greater voter decline in Democratic precincts than in Republican ones.

2. Headlee blocks local projects

The defeat of both ballot proposals in this April's city election once again demonstrated the significant impact of the 1978 Headlee tax limitation amendment. Both the Sister Lakes Drain and South Industrial Highway bonding proposals went down to defeat. The margin of votes against the Sister Lakes proposal was a scant 20 votes.

Before Headlee was enacted, many projects such as these would simply have been approved by city council. Bonds would have been sold, and council would have levied a debt service millage to pay them off. Headlee prohibits council from levying those millages without a vote of the people.

While staging a popular vote on any millage increase may sound good in principle, Headlee does have its drawbacks. Most city bonding projects are for physical improvements which directly affect only a small portion of the city. To be funded, however, the entire city must approve them, and many voters seem unwilling to tax themselves for a project in someone else's neighborhood.

Since most bonding proposals are less than hot issues, it would take a concentrated publicity effort just to make voters

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city-wide aware of the issue.

The Sister Lakes proposal had a lot going for it politically. Efforts to prevent flooding in the area and to preserve the sensitive ecology of the ponds have been publicized for years. Ann Arbor has been generally responsive to environmental issues. Despite these factors, it still lost.

City officials may have to develop new strategies to pass future bonding proposals. Aggressive campaigns on their behalf would help, but it isn't clear where the money or people to mount them will come from. Another approach would be to package a number of projects together so that voters in many parts of the city would have reason to support the package. There may, however, be legal impediments to using this technique.

3. The building slump continues

The Ann Arbor area building industry, hit hard by soaring interest rates, dramatized its plight in April. Leading industry representatives visited Congressman Carl Pursell, and a local convoy of 270 cars, trucks, and heavy machines brought 1,050 pieces of two-by-fours to the post office to mail to President Carter in a protest gesture which made national news.

In Washtenaw County, 151 residential building permits—a good index of housing starts—were issued for the first quarter of 1979, as compared to a meager 34 during the same period this year. Residential building permits in Ann Arbor declined from 24 in first quarter 1979 to just 13 in first quarter 1980—a drop of nearly 46%. Sales agreements on previously occupied Ann Arbor homes fell from 775 for first quarter 1979 to 506 in first quarter 1980.

What these statistics leave unclear is the slump's effect on construction-associated businesses. Local firms report feeling a severe pinch—from surveyors, builders, contractors, and material suppliers, to plumbers, electricians, and banks with dwindling mortgage business.

Both Fingerle and Washtenaw Lumber report cutbacks in workers' hours; plumbing contractors say there have been some layoffs. In the electrical trades, 20 to 30 hour work weeks have become the norm. Some builders have become money-lenders, offering lower rates to entice back buyers frightened by 17% interest rates. Says Guenther Builders' Frances Corona, "We have a fair number of lookers, but they avoid our salespeople like the plague."

Speculative housing starts have come to a near standstill. Comments Marc Rueter of Argo Development, a small building firm which has tabled an ambitious building program for lack of buyers, "You know the times are tough when even a small outfit like ours receives weekly calls from suppliers to inquire if we need anything."

In most slack periods, construction trades could fall back on home improvement work. But even this type of business may soon dry up. The current unavailability of home improvement loans has eliminated homeowners lacking ready money to cover major renovations or additions. Tamarack Plumbing and Heating's Howard McMullen says nearly half his repiping business was dependent on bank loans; last week he had two potential customers turned away by the bank. "They wouldn't even talk to these people," he reports.



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SUMMING UP/continued

4. Racial balance tops school board election issues

April found just six hats in the ring for the three school board seats up for election on June 9. The candidates include two-term trustee Wendy Barhydt and low-key board vice-president Joseph Vaughn, the only black contestant. Former board president Paul Weinhold, who failed to win re-election last year, is running again. Other entrants include former teacher Lynn Johnson, who is concluding two terms as president of the highly active PTO Council. Johnson also served on the Board's Committee for Racial Balance and Educational Opportunity last year, as did candidate Wendy Raeder, another former teacher who has long been active in conservative causes. The final contestant is VA clinical psychologist Robert Gunn, who became involved in school issues two years ago as part of the angry group of parents who opposed the late starting time of local elementary schools.

Few flaming campaign issues have emerged. In part this is a result of the moderate course steered all year by board president Kathleen Dannemiller. Her emphasis on board unity has avoided the conflagration predicted by some conservatives last June when three liberals swept the election and gained their first board majority in eight years. On money issues the worrisome state economic climate has unified the candidates. All favor a reduction in school taxes. In addition, all six want to improve educational outcomes for low-income and minority children. The sextet splits four to two over racial balance—the partial equalization of elementary schools' racial ratios specified by state guidelines. Favoring compliance are Vaughn, Gunn, and Johnson. Barhydt favors movement toward the guidelines, while Weinhold and Raeder oppose compliance.

School board candidates' stands tend to blur across typical ideological lines. Similarly, their networks of support also spread beyond the clear-cut partisan allegiances of city elections. This year, Jo Vaughn and Lynn Johnson have received endorsements of two groups: the teachers' union and the liberal Committee for a Progressive School Board. This double backing was pivotal for last year's winners.

Wendy Barhydt won the teachers' third endorsement with her record of concern for teachers' issues, while the Committee for a Progressive School Board gave its third endorsement to Robert Gunn.

Barhydt, a moderate conservative, finds herself on the ballot without any other mainstream conservatives like Peter Wright, who decided not to seek re-election. Rumors have it that few conservatives were interested in running this year and that an informal group seeking conservative candidates turned to

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Weinhold despite memories of his strong-minded, abrasive style on the board. Also tapped was Raeder, although there was some discomfort with her approach to racial issues exemplified by a speech to the board in March in which she asked trustees to leave Clinton, her neighborhood elementary school, free of encroachments by students from overcrowded and racially imbalanced Bryant School nearby. She concluded with the admonition to Bryant parents, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's school."

5. Good news for taxpayers: a lower tax rate for the schools

Cheering news for local taxpayers flowed from the school board's April meetings. Superintendent Harry Howard announced that the system had so adroitly avoided the desperate fiscal straits now plaguing other Michigan districts that a cut in taxes is possible without a cut in school programs. Given taxpayers' testy frame of mind and the budget cuts already made by city council, school board members apparently thought the cut highly advisable.

The school system is buoyed by a steadily expanding annual surplus, currently about \$2,200,000, that Howard and the system's financial chief, Bill Wade, have carefully cultivated since 1972. Howard now proposes to cut into the surplus by slashing two of the nearly forty tax mills collected annually by the school system. An added cut of nearly one mill is assured by the Headlee amendment passed in 1978. These two cuts would take a welcome \$9.1 million out of local tax bills over the next two years, a 7% cut in school taxes.

Local homeowners currently pay property taxes of nearly 71 mills (dollars per thousand of assessed value). A house with a \$60,000 market value costs the owner a little over \$2,100 in taxes, the school system absorbing nearly two-thirds of the total take. The schools' three mill tax cut would nick the \$2,100 by about \$90.

Some people are wondering if the tax cuts will increase the chance of a teachers' strike in the fall. Dick Taylor, president of the teachers' union, is now bargaining for a new wage agreement to take effect in September. "Since 1972," says Taylor, "teachers' actual purchasing power has fallen 47%. We need a fairly significant raise. It's difficult for our members to understand how the system is able to salt away nearly three million dollars." Taylor would like to see tax cuts limited to an initial 1.4 mill voluntary cut that Howard is proposing to delete from the July tax bill. Other cuts should wait until the end of 1980 to see if the state's educational tax structure is clobbered by the legislature or Tisch-type amendments this November. Even with the 1.4 mill cut, Taylor says, "We feel there is money for an equitable settlement. I'm not predicting a strike."

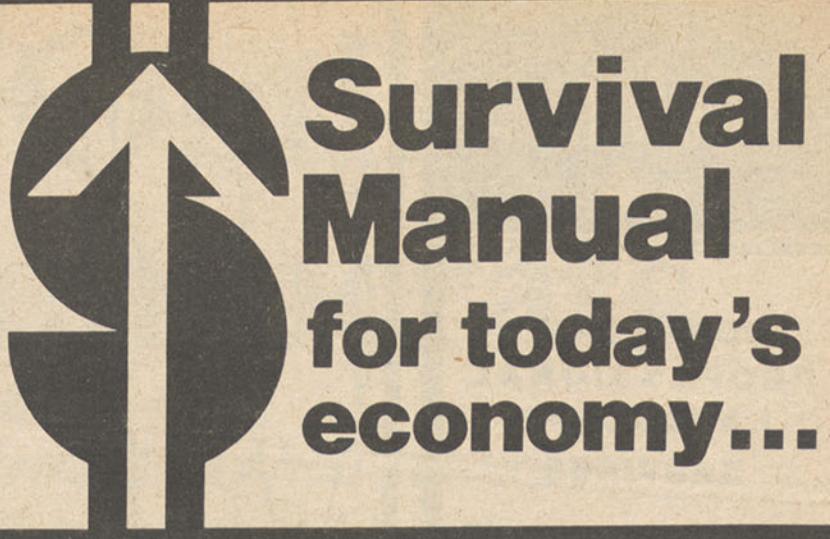
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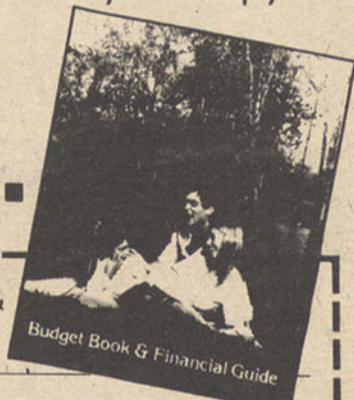
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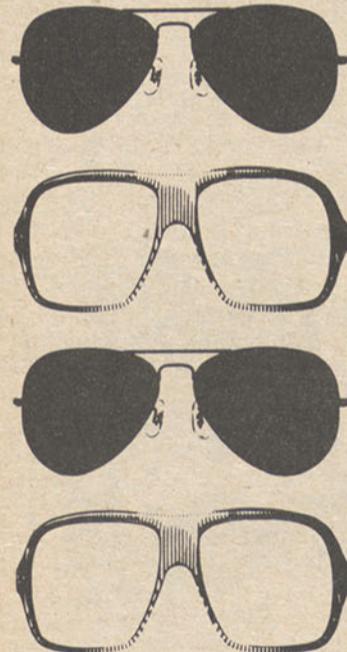
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The Bleak Outlook for City Democrats

Though Democrats briefly controlled city hall in the Seventies, there are good reasons to conclude that they are destined to remain the city's minority party.

By TOM WIEDER

When the decade of the 1970's began, city Democrats had reason for unprecedented optimism. They held eight of the eleven seats on the Ann Arbor City Council, including the office of Mayor. Mayor Robert J. Harris had led his party to victory in the April, 1969, election, ending almost forty years of unbroken Republican control of City Hall. (Democratic mayor Sam Eldersveld, elected in a 1957 upset, didn't have a Democratic Council majority.)

In 1971 and 1972, with the coming of the 18-year-old vote and student voting, thousands of potential new Democratic voters were added to local registration lists. Democrats dreamed of their own forty-year reign.

But just ten years later, that dream of Democratic rule in Ann Arbor has all but vanished. As the decade of the 1980's begins, Republicans control seven of the eleven seats on the Ann Arbor City Council. Of the eight city councils elected since 1973, seven have had Republican majorities. Along with Democratic fortunes, city voter participation has also plummeted. From a peak of 33,000 votes cast in the 1973 election, just 9835 Ann Arborites cast their ballots in the April, 1980 election.

These trends are not all peculiar to Ann Arbor, and some explanations for them are as valid on the national level as in Ann Arbor. Throughout the country, voter turnout has been dropping in recent years. People have been more and more disenchanted with government, as the activist Sixties became the "me-oriented" Seventies. In Ann Arbor, where the effects of Sixties activism were much more pronounced, its disappearance has had a more dramatic effect.

Many analysts attribute voter non-participation nationally to a feeling that the issues have become too big, too complex, and too confusing. They claim voters have given up trying to figure them out and stay home instead.

In Ann Arbor, though, many observers ask, "Where have all the issues gone?" In the late Sixties and early Seventies, city council and the electorate were dealing with big issues in a big way: civil rights, marijuana, mass transit, rent control, income tax. Monday night council meetings were the scene of vigorous, occasionally ar-

ticulate debate between traditional liberal and conservative political philosophies (and, for a few years, the radical politics of the Human Rights Party).

The big issues seem to be gone now, and the gap between the two major parties seems to have narrowed. The issues have become smaller, and the differences often sound petty.

It was the big issues of the late Sixties that

provoked AATA's guaranteed annual millage by the voters in 1973, transit has ceased to be a significant council issue. It isn't a budget issue at all.

Uncontrolled growth and development were favorite targets of Democrats. Developers, they charged, had free rein in building whatever they wanted. Decisions were made in back rooms, and affected neighborhoods found out about the projects

the department was demoted to a sub-unit of the city administrator's office. This was done at the time when the city had both a black mayor and black city administrator. Not a word was heard in protest. It would be fair to say that few Democrats still see racial and sexual discrimination as a major city government issue in Ann Arbor.

There was a certain amount of naivete in the old Democratic agenda, a belief that the problems of race and poverty could be dealt with on the city level. Once in office, Democrats found out that this just couldn't be done. No more vivid example of this could be found than the issue of public housing. A major goal of Bob Harris and his supporters was to construct large amounts of public housing. It didn't take long to discover that the city didn't have the resources to do this, and that federal dollars were already drying up. Democrats now talk of encouraging the University or private developers to build lower-cost housing, but no serious proposal for city-sponsored public housing has appeared on the scene in years.

A number of issues have been resolved or have simply disappeared. Lowered fines for marijuana use and the contents of the city's Tenant's Rights Booklet once generated a lot of heat. Both issues were settled by amendments to the City Charter. Rent control was soundly defeated by voters twice.

Confrontations between police and young people were once common, and Democrats and HRP supported calls for civilian review boards and other controls on the police. Today, student candidates for council call for more police patrols in the campus area. It's hard to tell the students from the Republicans. In fact, the two students running in the last election were Republicans.

As the old issues have faded, far less salient ones have replaced them. Vigorous council debates now center on where to place a parking structure, whether or not to buy the Michigan Theater, or a few hundred thousand dollars in budget modifications. These battles don't excite either party activists or voters.

Unfortunately for Democrats, they need the exciting issues more than the Republicans do. When Democrats have won elections, the margin of victory has been provided by the votes of students and

In the late Sixties and early Seventies, city council and the electorate were dealing with big issues in a big way: civil rights, mass transit, rent control, income tax. The big issues seem to be gone now, and the gap between city Republicans and Democrats has narrowed.

inspired Ann Arbor's liberal Democratic Party. The party built an agenda for city government which revolved around those issues. As those issues have faded, so has much of the party's fervor. Liberal Democrats just don't get that excited about currently-salient issues like street repair, better police protection, and how to cut the budget and cut taxes.

While Democrats have been losing most of the election battles, the evidence suggests that they may have already won the war. Much of the Democratic agenda that Bob Harris brought into office has been accomplished. Other parts of it have been abandoned as unworkable by Democrats themselves.

A few examples illustrate the point. Democrats fought vigorously for the creation of an effective mass transit system, and city council debated almost endlessly the appropriations for the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority. With the ap-

only when the bulldozers rumbled down the street. With the passage of state enabling legislation and a local Subdivision and Land Use Control Ordinance, that has all ended. Any significant construction now requires numerous reviews and public hearings. And neighborhood groups have used these new tools very skillfully to block or modify many unwanted projects.

Human rights was a major issue going back to the open housing battles of the mid Sixties. The Democratic and Human Rights parties adopted major changes in the city's Human Rights Ordinance, prohibiting discrimination based on gender, student status and sexual preference. The Harris administration created the first Human Rights Department to enforce the ordinance.

By 1976, though, times had changed. The Human Rights Director was removed and



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other young people, apartment dwellers, and relatively more transient members of the community. These voters are far less likely to vote than the middle-class homeowners who make up the bulk of the Republican constituency.

It would be easy, however, to overstate the case for how gloomy Democratic prospects are. Until this year, Republicans had not received more than 52% of the city-wide vote for mayor or city council in any year since 1970. A shift to Democrats of just 400 votes in the 1978 and 1979 elections, and Democrats would have had the seven-to-four majority on city council going into this April's election.

In November elections, Ann Arbor more often than not votes Democratic. In November 1978, Democrats got a majority of votes city-wide in races for U.S. Senator, State Senator, State Representative and County Commissioner, trailing Republicans only in the races for U.S. Congress and Governor. The results in the latter two races were probably due to unusually weak Democratic candidates running against popular incumbents.

The Ann Arbor electorate has been quite willing to vote for demonstrably liberal candidates like Perry Bullard, Ed Pierce, and Carl Levin. Even the solidly Republican Third Ward voted for Pierce and Bullard. It seems clear that a significant number of voters have confidence in Democrats representing them at the state or national level but don't want them running the city.

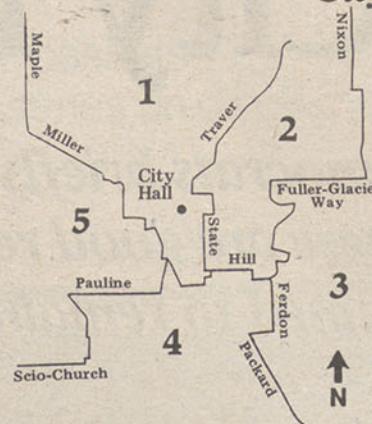
Another problem for Democrats, as well as a significant cause of recent low turnouts, are the present ward boundaries. As is well known to most Ann Arbor voters by now, the same party almost always wins in four of the five wards. Since the new wards were first used in 1973, Republicans have

only won one race in either the First or Second Wards and have never lost a race in the Third or Fifth.

Neither of the two major parties particularly likes the present boundaries, which isn't surprising, since neither of them controlled their design. The boundaries were drawn in 1972, when the makeup of city council was five Republicans, four

would have created five wards, each with a good cross-section of the city's electorate and a liberal-radical majority. HRP could win none of the wards and would soon die out. Democrats would then have a shot at all five, although none would be sure bets. Relatively close contests would increase interest and turnout and strengthen the party organization.

City Wards



The five city wards carved out in the early Seventies have benefitted the Republicans more than the Democrats. After the 1980 census new lines will be drawn, and a Republican majority on council will give that party the right to do the redrawing. The result could be an even more difficult situation for the Democrats.

Democrats and two Human Rights Party members. For a ward plan to be adopted, at least two of the parties had to agree on a plan.

Republicans wanted a plan that would concentrate what appeared to be a significant liberal-radical voting majority in two wards, giving them the other three and a council majority. HRP wanted to concentrate these voters enough to give them a good chance to win two wards, but leaving enough left over in a third ward so that there would be three HRP or Democratic wards.

Many Democrats preferred a plan that

The present plan was a Democratic-HRP compromise. It was drawn based on April 1972 election returns, the only city election in which students and 18-year-olds had yet voted. Based on those figures, the First and Second Wards were drawn to be Democratic-HRP contests. The Third Ward was conceded to the GOP. The Fifth Ward was Republican (about 52% in the April 1972 election), but considered a possible Democratic victory. The Fourth Ward was to be the "swing" ward. A majority of the votes there could be expected to be non-Republican, but a division of those votes between Democrats and the



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HRP could give the GOP a plurality victory. That is exactly what happened in 1973.

The plan hasn't quite worked out as expected. The First, Second and Third Wards have voted as expected, but not the Fourth and Fifth. A Democrat hasn't come close to winning the Fifth, and the Fourth has "swung" to the Democrats only twice in eight years (the two victories, in 1974 and 1976, of Jamie Kenworthy).

The ward boundaries have been bad for Democrats in other ways, too. The greatest Democratic successes in the late Sixties came about because they out-organized and out-worked the Republicans. Before the student and 18-year-old vote, Ann Arbor was a Republican town, even in November elections. The massive influx of young, liberal voters made some Democratic victories possible even without good organization. With the student vote declining almost to insignificance, Democrats once again need good organization, and the ward boundaries seriously undermine this.

It is difficult for Democrats to build and hold an organization in the student and tenant dominated First and Second Wards because party workers and voters are constantly moving, and a Democratic victory is almost assured anyway. It is equally hard to build organizations in the Third and Fifth Wards, where victory seems all but impossible.

The ward boundaries have also affected Democrats' choice of candidates and their appeal to the overall Ann Arbor constituency. Before the student vote, Democratic candidates and council members looked a lot like Republican ones. With a few exceptions, they were generally white, male, over 30, professionals, business people or University professors.

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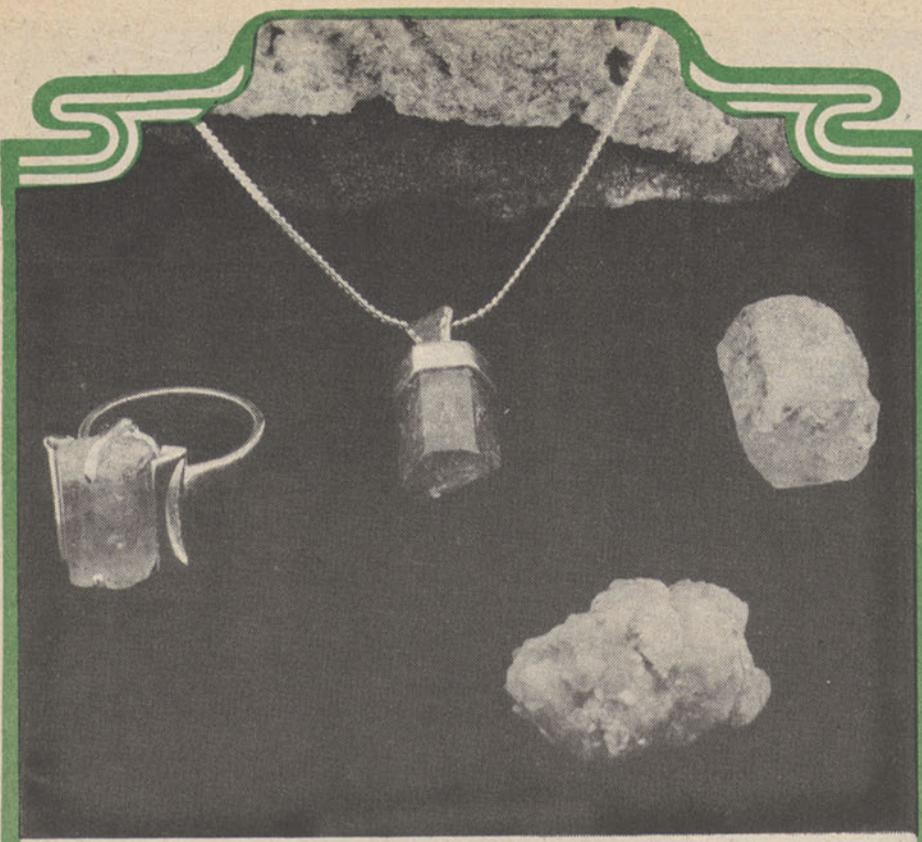
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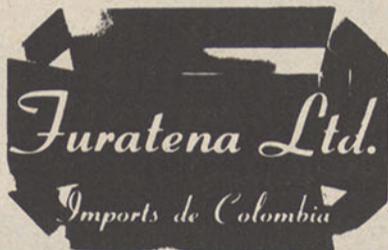
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With the advent of the student vote and competition from HRP, Democrats vigorously sought out women, blacks, and students as candidates. A frequently heard joke was that the perfect candidate would be a 20-year-old black, female, Jewish, gay, handicapped student with an Hispanic surname.

Democrats did manage to knock off the HRP with candidates like 19-year-old Carol Jones Dwyer and Liz Keogh Taylor. They also ran some more traditional candidates, who always lost in the hopeless Third and Fifth Wards. Jamie Kenworthy has been the only Democratic success outside the First and Second Wards.

As a result, the large percentage of the city's voters who are white, middle-class homeowners and live in Wards 3, 4, and 5 have had virtually no Democratic representation on city council since the very early Seventies. And the Democrats who have been elected to council have been very different from the white, middle-class homeowners in style and status. Of the Democrats who have served on council since 1973, two were students (Kenworthy and Dwyer), two are black (Norris Thomas and Ken Latta), and Keogh was well-known for her radical activities, including war-tax resistance.

The composition of the present Democratic contingent on council does more closely resemble the profile of Ann Arborites who vote faithfully in city elections. Susan Greenberg, Leslie Morris, and Earl Greene are all middle-class homeowners. Morris and Greenberg are both married and have children. It is a fact of political life that people seem to prefer voting for candidates who are as much like them as possible.

Beyond this, Democrats have for some time lacked the kind of forceful, articulate, charismatic leadership which excites campaign workers and attracts large numbers of voters. In recent memory, Bob Harris comes closest to fitting this description. He was a polished, often witty speaker and an extremely energetic and effective campaigner.

Of the present Democratic councilmembers, none seems to have the combination of talents necessary to effectively build a city-

wide constituency. Morris and Greenberg are considered hard-working and responsive representatives, but neither could be called charismatic. Greene was nearly rejected by his own party for renomination in a bitter primary fight. Ken Latta is often viewed as articulate but somewhat aloof.

Normally the mayor's office gives a local party its best opportunity to present its policies to the electorate and build support for them. Democrats, in the person of Albert Wheeler, did control the mayor's office from 1975 to 1978, but they never seemed to be able to capitalize on that fact.

In all fairness to Wheeler, it must be pointed out that he never had a Democratic majority on council to work with. Even so, Wheeler had a somewhat closed and secretive operating style and seemed unwilling to try to build party and public support for the programs he couldn't get approved by Republican councils.

Not that recent Republican candidates and officeholders are necessarily more charismatic than their Democratic counterparts. However, that dynamic leadership is probably more essential to Democratic success at the polls. The Democratic constituency is less likely to vote than Republicans, and hot issues and appealing candidates are necessary to get them out. Republicans are more likely to vote no matter what.

Democrats probably still suffer from their association in the minds of many voters with the policies of the radical HRP. In order to compete with the HRP for much-needed student and tenant votes, many Democratic candidates were forced to take positions far to the left of most city voters, even some who generally considered themselves Democrats before.

Even though the HRP is now gone, all the Democrats presently on council are from the First and Second Wards and are likely to champion the interests of their renter and student constituencies. The Democrats are in the unenviable position of representing primarily students and renters at a time when those types of voters are a shrinking part of the active electorate.

□
What does all of this mean for the future? After the 1980 Census figures are





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released, the ward boundaries will be redrawn by City Council. This will probably occur after next April's city election. That means that the boundaries will be redrawn by the representatives elected this year and next. It takes six of eleven council votes to approve a plan. The Republicans won three seats this year and can count on winning the Third and Fifth Wards next year. If they win either the mayor's race or the Fourth Ward next year, they will have six votes. Of course, if the Democrats win the mayor's race, they could veto a Republican plan, probably throwing

★★★★★

Democrats have for some time lacked the kind of forceful, articulate, charismatic leadership which excites campaign workers and attracts large numbers of voters.

★★★★★

the matter into court. In order to control the redrawing, Democrats would have to win both the mayor's race and the Fourth Ward, in addition to expected victories in Wards One and Two.

What would each of the parties do if they controlled the ward boundary redrawing? Since the Fourth Ward has experienced the greatest population growth during the past decade, it is most likely that parts of it will be shifted to other wards. One possible Republican scenario would move the Burns Park area south of Hill Street into the First and Second Wards, making the Fourth an almost sure Republican win, along with the Third and Fifth. Democrats might like to move the Lansdowne area, which gives huge majorities to Republicans, into the Fifth Ward, where it won't do any harm.

Regardless of what happens with the

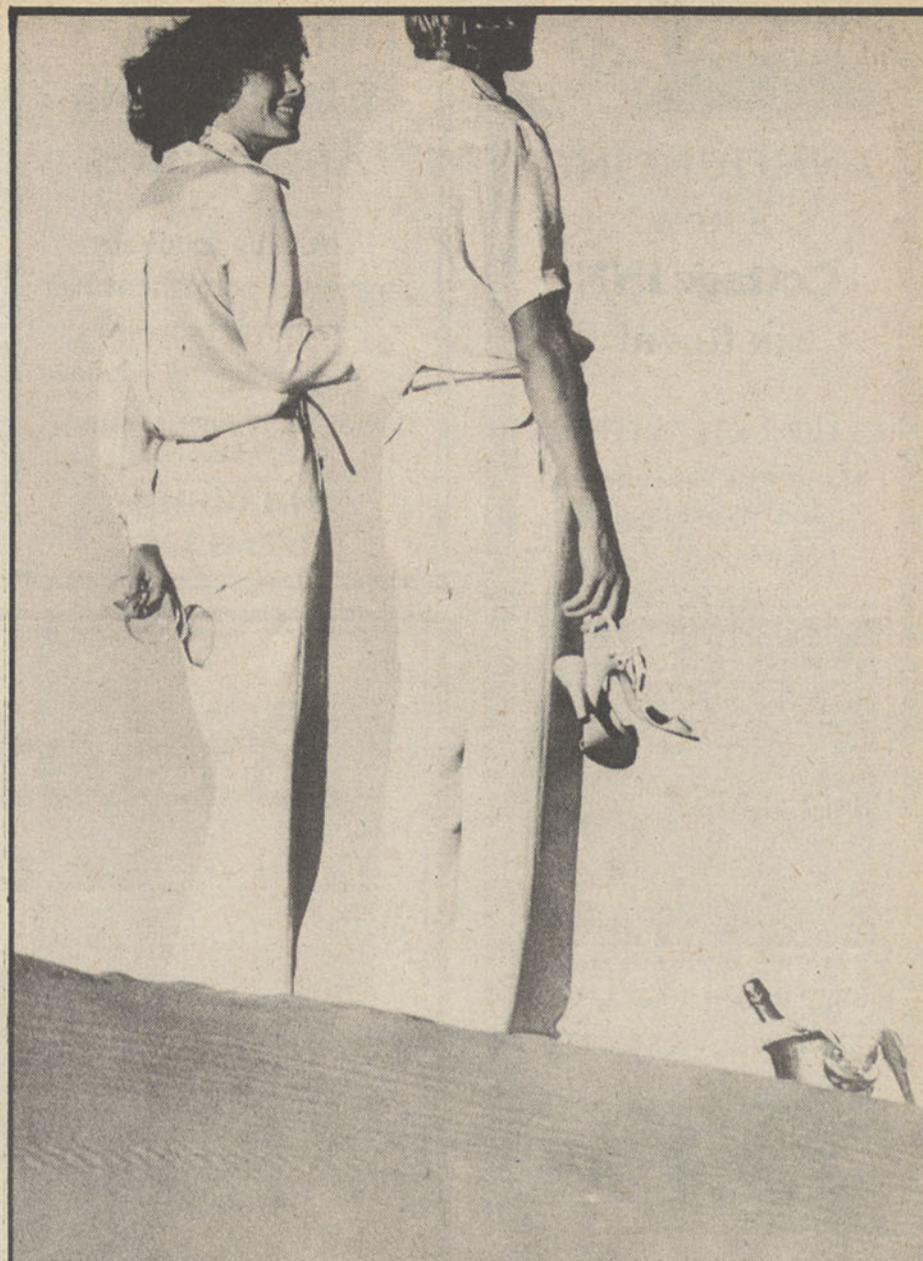
ward boundaries, Democrats must face the issue of how to improve their showing at the polls each April. There is a significant split in the party developing over this issue. One view is that the party should develop a new agenda of issues, one that will appeal to the thousands of voters who vote Democratic in November but don't show up in April. There are a lot of those voters, and most are relatively liberal. It is argued that these voters could be used to win more elections without abandoning the party's traditional liberalism.

The strategy sounds good, and the potential numbers are large enough, but it isn't at all clear that Democrats have any idea of what issues will turn those voters on. Another problem is the high turnover of those voters, which means that large numbers of them must be won over every year.

The alternative Democratic strategy suggests that Democrats should stop counting on students and other hard-to-turn-on voters to win elections. They should begin to run more traditional looking and sounding candidates and address the concerns of the more stable voting population that can be relied upon to come to the polls. This strategy worked to elect a council majority before the student vote, the argument goes, so why not try it again?

It is unlikely that Democrats will actually sit down and decide the issue one way or the other. For the immediate future, the strategy will probably be determined by who runs for mayor in 1981. Former Second Ward City Councilman Robert Faber (1969-73) is very seriously considering running, and many in the party expect him to. If he were the nominee, Faber, who is a middle-aged businessman and homeowner, would be a sharp contrast to Jamie Kenworthy, a thirtyish doctoral student in American Culture, who was the last Democratic mayoral candidate.

The Seventies were not very good to local Democrats, and if the Republicans redraw the ward boundaries next year, the Eighties may be even worse. Republicans will preside over shorter, quieter Monday night council meetings. But, perhaps, the lack of dramatic differences between the parties suggests that not even very many local Democrats will really care. □



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A Question of Libel

Four years ago, Sheriff Fred Postill's re-election campaign was effectively derailed by a fist fight with a deputy and subsequent articles in the Ann Arbor News. Now Postill is trying to prove in court that three News articles about him were false and malicious.

By DON HUNT



Fred Postill had run as a liberal reform candidate in 1972 against Sheriff Doug Harvey, a man whose red-neck, violence-prone image made him a lot of enemies in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. Although he was hardly a flaming liberal, Postill looked quite liberal in contrast to the conservative Harvey, and many sheriff's deputies didn't like the idea of a leader who might put such abstract principles as "social justice" ahead of backing up his own men.

Bill Treml, [left] whom Ann Arbor News editors call their best, most experienced reporter, spent 19 years on the police beat. He returned to reporting police matters when the Postill-Baysinger fight erupted.

As April turns into May, Ann Arbor finds itself in the midst of a long, tough court battle between two well-known figures: ex-Sheriff Fred Postill on the one hand, and reporter Bill Treml and *The Ann Arbor News* on the other. Postill is suing Treml and the *News* for libel. The stakes are as much the respective individuals' reputations as they are money, although Postill is asking millions in damages he says were caused by three Treml articles the *News* printed in July of 1976.

In his four years as sheriff of Washtenaw County, Postill was an ambitious lawman who worked hard to professionalize the sheriff's department and is proud of what he did. For the *News* to print page-one articles relating what he considers wild charges about his administration — and this right in the middle of a tough re-election battle (which he eventually lost) — is not something he has taken lightly. Now, four years after the articles appeared, he has his day in court. Above all else, Postill wants the record to show that the allegations the

News printed are false.

The editors of the *News* have a very different view of those fateful three articles. They stand behind every word in them. Through their attorney, Ed Hood, they intend to prove it with witness after witness. Also at stake is the reputation of Bill Treml, a senior *News* reporter whose integrity until Postill's libel charges had been unquestioned. A skilled professional, Treml has reportedly been tormented by having his honesty and competence as a reporter repeatedly questioned in a court of law. □

The night of July 11, 1976 marked a dramatic turning point in the life of Washtenaw County Sheriff Frederick J. Postill. Late that night, while attending a wedding reception in Chelsea of one of his lieutenants, Postill got into a vicious fight with one of his deputies, Basil Baysinger. The chain of events that followed that fight effectively derailed Postill's chances of holding on to the sheriff's seat. Now 38

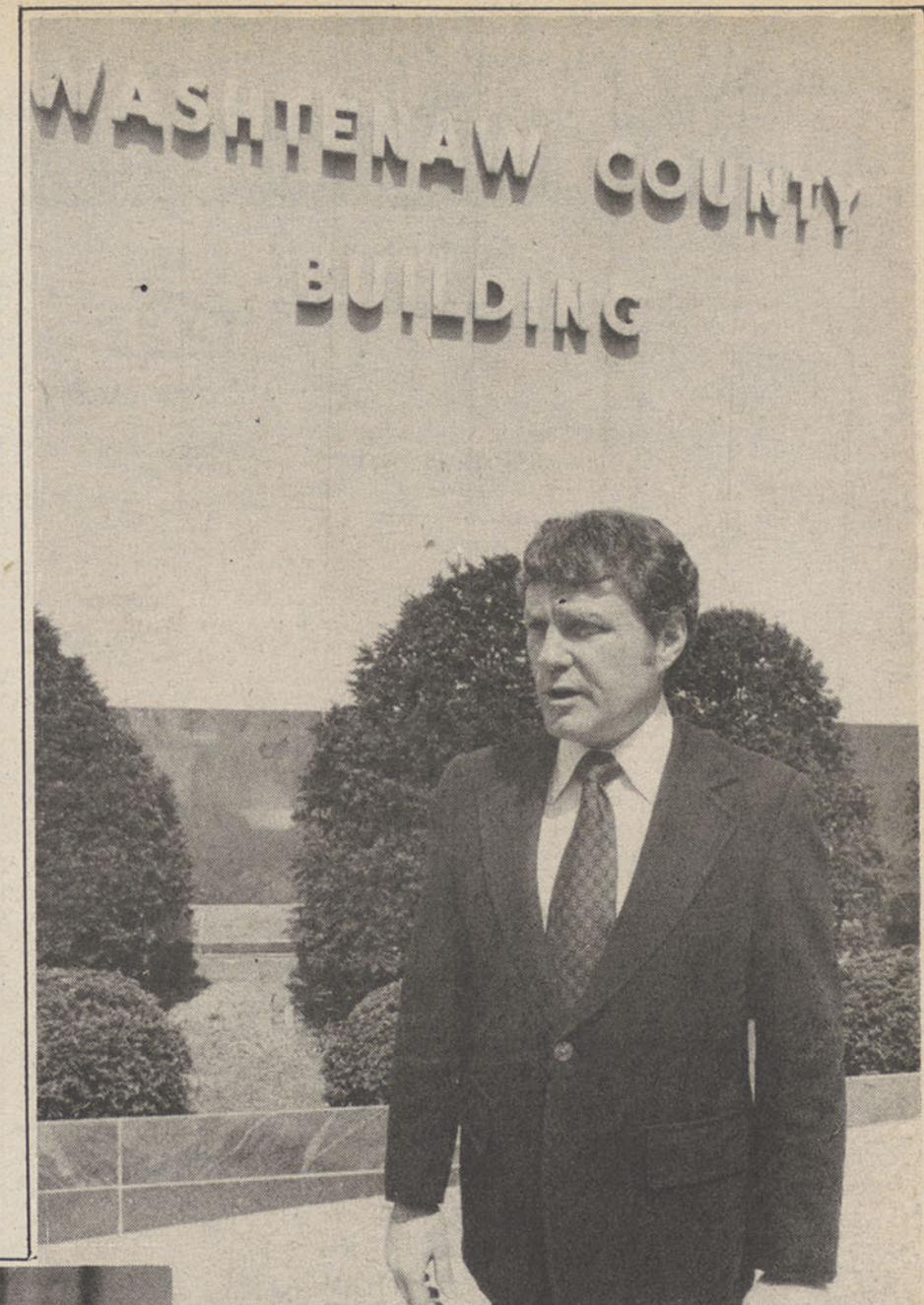
years old and a law enforcement consultant living in Ypsilanti, Postill may well have been sheriff today had that fight and its aftermath not occurred.

The summer of 1976 was a tense period for Sheriff Postill even before the Chelsea fight. He was facing tough opposition for the upcoming Democratic primary and subsequent general election in the fall. (He eventually lost handily to Republican Tom Minick.) Having won the 1972 election, a three-way race, with only 41% of the vote, Postill could hardly be confident of re-election. And it didn't help matters that a sizeable number of his own deputies were actively backing other candidates for his job.

Postill had run as a liberal reform candidate in '72 against Sheriff Doug Harvey, a man whose red-neck, violence-prone image made him a lot of enemies in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area. Although Postill was hardly a flaming liberal, he looked quite liberal in contrast to the conservative Harvey, and many Sheriff's deputies didn't like

the idea of a leader who might put such abstract principles as "social justice" ahead of backing up his own men. That concern was reinforced when Postill suspended two deputies for using excessive force one night in searching a black rhythm-and-blues band called The Blue Magic. Although accounts of what happened suggest that the two deputies were clearly guilty of violating the band members' rights, many of Postill's deputies saw it as a clear example of how, when it came to a point of needing to stand up for his men, Postill couldn't be counted on.

Deputy Basil Baysinger was one of those deputies Postill viewed as a political enemy. To this day it is unclear how the Postill-Baysinger fight in Chelsea erupted. Postill said it started when his jail administrator, Frank Donley, and he were telling Baysinger to shape up his job performance. Baysinger claims the two men were on him because he was actively opposing Postill's re-election. Whatever the specific catalyst, Postill, who says he was hit from behind by



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Baysinger, ended up needing fourteen stitches in his mouth, and Donley says he was set upon and beat up by Baysinger sympathizers.

It seems clear that Postill lost control of his men during the incident. His requests to other deputies to arrest Baysinger went unheeded. Most damaging to Postill was the threat at least four witnesses say they heard him make regarding Baysinger: "Stand back, I'm going to blow a hole in that s.o.b." Baysinger subsequently filed assault charges against Postill, but it took a jury only twenty minutes to find the sheriff not guilty.

The story of the fight made front page headlines in the July 12 *Ann Arbor News*. Damaging as it was to Postill's reelection chances, the story was to be followed by much more damaging ones. On July 15, a front page story appeared, headlined "Deputy Fearful." It began, "The head of the Michigan State Police was asked Wednesday to place a guard on a Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy [Baysinger] and his wife because of death threats allegedly made by Sheriff Frederick J. Postill and Jail Administrator Frank Donley." The story included quotes from a telegram sent by Carl Parsell, director of the Police Officer's Association of Michigan, to the director of state police claiming that Postill and Donley had continued to threaten Baysinger's life. It said these threats "should not be taken lightly" because Donley had a long criminal record that included violent assault and Postill "has been involved in several felonious assaults of private citizens reportedly involving pistol-whipping."

Postill was infuriated that the *News* would print such wild accusations made by people known to be his political enemies. Postill had never been charged with assault in his life, and it was well known that Donley had a single armed robbery conviction, but hardly a "long record that included violent assault." For the *News* to print a lead story which seriously suggested that he was scheming to kill one of his deputies seemed to Postill like an obvious collusion of the *News* with his most bitter political enemies.

As if this weren't bad enough publicity, Postill found himself and his department again grabbing front page attention in the next evening's *News*. A story headlined, "Deputies Ask to Testify Against Postill," began, "More than a score of deputies are seeking immunity from discharge or discipline in exchange for testimony about 'acts of violence and assaults' by the sheriff on civilians and jail prisoners." It is ironic that Postill, who is credited with making the jail a more humane place, would be charged in a *News* article with repeatedly beating prisoners. The July 16 article went on to portray a department with many serious problems, including stolen money, misappropriated equipment, and misconduct by Postill favorites in the department.

The following evening the *News* published another front-page story quoting Republican County Commissioner Bent Nielson calling for an investigation of the sheriff's department and reiterating the charges made in the previous day's article.

From Postill's viewpoint, the stories were an obvious set-up by his political enemies intended to destroy his chances for reelection. None of the charges had surfaced before the election campaign, and none were substantiated by subsequent investigations. For the *News* to print such articles was to Postill a transparent indication of the *News*'s hostility toward him and his administration.

The author of the articles was Bill Tremel, a 27-year veteran reporter. Tremel had been a *News* police reporter for the past nineteen

years. As the country moved toward the left in the late Sixties and early Seventies, his conservative views stood out in sharp relief. Like Postill's predecessor, Doug Harvey, Tremel was something of a flag waver. A mild-mannered, worried-looking man in person, he wrote a weekly column called

The Allegedly

"Witnesses have made it very clear that the Sheriff and the Jail Administrator have publicly and privately, both at the incident and after the incident stated that they were going to kill Deputy Basil Baysinger and his wife. This should not be taken lightly, as the record is clear that the present Jail Administrator, Frank Donley, has a long criminal record including violent assault. The record is also clear that Sheriff Postill has been involved in several felonious assaults of private citizens involving pistol-whipping."

(From Carl Parsell's telegram, reprinted in the *News*, Thursday, July 15, 1976, Page 1)

"Baysinger had received reports of death threats made against him and his wife by Sheriff Postill and Mr. Donley since the Chelsea incident."

(Thursday, July 15, 1976, Page 1)

"While the grievance is confined to officer reports of assaults by Postill and Donley one source said that angle is 'only the tip of the iceberg.' The source said department and prisoner funds have been stolen, equipment misappropriated and misconduct by 'Postill favorites' overlooked."

(Friday, July 16, 1976, Page 1)

"They can do this. We've got a lot to say. But if we talk without a solid guarantee there won't be revenge taken by the Sheriff we might as well turn in our badges right now. He'll fire us in a minute."

(Friday, July 16, 1976, Page 1)

"As I See It" in which he burst forth with melodramatic appreciations of military and civilian heroes and extolled the simple values of traditional American life, at the same time heaping ridicule on the growing voices of protest around the country in the late Sixties and early Seventies.



It's not surprising that in 1972 the newly-elected liberal sheriff and the conservative newspaper reporter would not get along. Postill claims Tremel had a special arrangement with Doug Harvey whereby he would be exclusively notified by the sheriff if a newsworthy event occurred. Postill terminated that practice and says Tremel vowed revenge as a result. (Tremel denies any such thing happened.)

What followed, in Postill's view, was a series of newspaper articles by Tremel critical of Postill's department. Postill says he repeatedly complained to *News* editor Bob Romaker and that Romaker finally agreed to take Tremel off the sheriff's beat in February, 1975. (Tremel says he left the police beat at his own request because "I'd been running too long to get to unhappy scenes.") According to the *News*'s editors, Postill made only one complaint to them about a Tremel article, and that article was determined to be entirely accurate.)

From that time until the Postill fight in July of 1976, claims Postill, Tremel did not write about the sheriff's department. Then suddenly Tremel was back in the picture. Not only did he cover the July 11 fight between Postill and Baysinger, but in quick succession, on July 15, 16, and 17, there appeared the three articles under Tremel's byline which were extraordinarily critical of Postill. It was as if the dam holding back the accumulated resentment against Postill by some of his deputies had burst, and there was Tremel as a conduit.

After the three Tremel articles, Postill immediately demanded a retraction from the *News*, which was refused. Along with

Frank Donley, he then sued for libel, naming as defendants Tremel, Booth Newspapers (owners of the *News*), Carl Parsell and the Police Officers Association, and Basil Baysinger. Now the trial, after many delays, is finally underway, and the plaintiffs' major target is Bill Tremel.

Libelous Words

"One officer said he estimated there would be between 25 and 50 deputies and employees who would be willing to appear before commissioners to tell of various aspects of what he termed 'total misadministration' by Postill. Included in what one source said was a 'long list' of incidents is a recent one involving the permitting of a prisoner charged with murder having sex relations with a woman in a jail office."

(Friday, July 16, 1976, Page 1)

"One officer said there are more than 25 deputies who say they have knowledge of a wide range of improprieties from beating of prisoners to theft of department funds. But if deputies spoke out without a guarantee against mass firings it would mean immediate discharge by Postill, the officer said."

(Saturday, July 17, 1976, Page 1)

"The fear of firing if testimony is given about the Postill administration was expressed again late Friday by a deputy. He was asked if he or other officers would be willing to detail to the *Ann Arbor News* specific incidents of misconduct or improprieties providing deputy names were not used. 'That would just get us all fired', the deputy said. 'Postill is even now pushing his snitches to nail us. He'd trace to the officers involved any account of incidents no matter if there was a name published or not.'"

(Saturday, July 17, 1976, Page 2)

In order to win a case of libel against Tremel and the *News*, Postill's attorney, Phil Green of Detroit, will have to convince a jury of five middle-aged white women and one younger black man that actual malice motivated Tremel's reporting. Malice is usually a very difficult thing to prove. Crucial to the case is the assertion that Tremel acted with reckless disregard of the truth. Attorney Green will try to show that there are so many contradictions between what Tremel said he did in gathering information for the stories of July 15 through 17 and what actually happened, that such reckless disregard unmistakably did take place.

Tremel at first maintained that confidential sources, whom he would not reveal, gave him much of the key information used in the Postill stories. However, Tremel eventually revealed these sources as Deputies Owings, Rider, and Flynn. But none of these deputies, according to Postill's side, admits to having been Tremel's confidential sources, although they do not deny the accuracy of what he wrote.

Tremel's credibility will also be attacked because he systematically destroyed his notes of these key interviews with confidential sources, as well as his "Postill" file, after the libel suit was underway. Green will do his best to impress upon the jury the suspiciousness of destroying such evidence.

Green will argue that Tremel depended on hearsay within hearsay in reporting charges about Postill and his administration. Among the alleged inaccuracies made by Tremel are:

- reporting charges of death threats by Postill and Donley toward Basil Baysinger and his wife, when no such threats were made.
- reporting on erroneous charges of previous altercations involving Postill.
- reporting on charges of misadministration in Postill's department, including stolen funds and equipment

misadministration, although Tremel had no factual basis for printing these allegations.

To defend themselves and reporter Tremel, Booth Newspapers hired local attorney and Fourth Ward council member Ed Hood, a libel expert. In his trial brief, Hood argues first of all that the allegedly libelous statements reported by Tremel were statements of opinion, not fact, and therefore incapable of being libelous.

If Tremel were acting with true malice, Hood further argues, he must be shown to have printed the allegedly libelous statements with reckless regard of their truth. To the contrary, says Hood, Tremel as well as the *News* editors had a firm basis for believing the allegedly libelous statements. He backs up this claim with numerous examples, including:

- Tremel took eighteen separate steps to verify the death threat allegations in the Parsell telegram.
- two officers will testify that Postill and Donley were drunk at the fateful wedding reception in 1976 and that Postill said of Baysinger after the fight, "I'm going to shoot that s.o.b."
- two other witnesses will testify that Postill said, "I'm going to blow a hole in that s.o.b."
- a number of deputies will testify about other assaults by Postill prior to the fight at the wedding reception
- several deputies will testify about stolen funds at the jail
- several deputies will testify that a jail inmate indulged in sexual contact with his girlfriend at the jail
- five deputies will testify that Postill beat an inmate at the jail
- ten or so deputies will testify about misconduct and incompetence of Postill's favorites in the department that went overlooked
- over ten deputies will testify that Postill would have sought revenge had deputies testified about the Postill administration
- one former employee will testify that Postill was a marijuana user, that he supported groups that had radical tendencies, and that his administration could not be trusted
- more than five deputies will testify that departmental equipment was misappropriated, including a snowmobile, a car, and CB equipment.

The trial, which has been going on now for several weeks, should be completed by the end of the first week in May. Whether Postill gains revenge or the *News* is vindicated, it will have been a very costly court battle for both sides.

But even though several dozen witnesses will be used by both sides to convince the jury that the Tremel stories were or were not true, it is quite likely that nothing really will be settled by the lawsuit. For one thing, it will be extremely difficult for Postill to win a libel suit in which malice must be proved. Even if one were to conclude that the Tremel articles were grossly unfair to the sheriff and had an unfortunate effect on his political career, it still does not mean that Tremel or the *News* is necessarily guilty of libel. There is also the question of the *degree* to which the charges made in the Tremel articles are true. One could find and document misadministration in any department, but a lot of people believe that, on the whole, Postill improved the sheriff's department considerably — a perspective very different from the one provided by the *News* articles. Thus, while the Postill libel trial may seem like a clear-cut resolution of a chronic dispute, the basic issue of journalistic fairness will probably never be resolved. □

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The Story of He

*How a power struggle within the Henderson family
of one of the area's largest dealerships*

By DAVE and KATHY



In February, 1979, Henderson Ford reported its 1978 new car sales were the best in its sixteen years of business — over fifteen million dollars. But within a year, Ann Arbor's only Ford dealership had mysteriously closed its doors. Some 80 employees had suddenly lost their jobs, and thousands of Henderson customers were left wondering how the sprawling Jackson Road dealership could simply close up shop without any explanation.

The story of why Henderson closed isn't one that the principal parties involved want to tell right now. Officially the Ford Motor Company has only said that it is seeking another dealership for the Ann Arbor area. None of the Henderson clan would talk. But from numerous sources, including court transcripts, Ford Motor Company employees, and employees and friends of the Hendersons, the story emerges of a bitter power struggle within the Henderson family which severely weakened the firm over the last several years. The auto sales slump that started in summer of last year proved to be more of a strain than the ailing firm could handle.

□

John R. Henderson founded Henderson Ford Sales, Inc. in 1963, when he purchased the local Ford franchise. An open, unpretentious man, he had begun his long association with Ford in the Forties, when he worked at the company's Willow Run Bomber Plant. He then ran a gas station at US-12 and Carpenter Roads before moving into dealership service with both Ford and Studebaker-Packard. After gaining experience in dealer placement in Ford's Lansing District, he set out on his own as a used car salesman in Jackson in the mid Fifties. By 1957 Henderson owned three used car lots in Jackson, Eaton Rapids, and Lansing. When the Ann Arbor Ford dealership became available in 1963, he mustered up all his resources, together with those of a Detroit-area backer, Gil Schaefer, to buy the franchise at 505 East Huron from Ann Arbor dealer Herb Estes.

Henderson planned on creating a balanced family partnership involving his three sons. He intended eventually to distribute all the Henderson Ford stock equally to sons Jack, Lew, and Jim. The boys were to earn their stock by working in the dealership, and while growing up they all worked in the family business. Jack and Lew became salesmen there upon graduation from college; Jim, the youngest, just completed college in 1979.

In the company's early years at the confined Huron Street location (now occupied by Ann Arbor Volvo-Mazda) it did very well, according to company reports, growing to an annual sales volume of over \$6 million. John Henderson was a hard-working on-site owner-manager who capably handled the rigors of a tough, competitive business, and he was able to cash in on the

phenomenal popularity of the Mustang in the mid Sixties. The sporty, affordable Mustang shaped automobile trends for a decade and brought boom years to Ford and its dealers.

By 1971 Henderson had outgrown the East Huron facility. In that year the dealership more than doubled its size by building impressive new facilities on 8.78 acres at Jackson and Wagner Roads. The real estate property (land and building) was valued at over \$1.1 million in the company's 1977 annual report. At the same time, John Henderson leveraged his Ann Arbor success to finance constructing and opening a second dealership, Henderson Dodge of Belleville.

But adjusting to a much larger dealership wasn't easy. The new Henderson facility may not have been adequately capitalized in the first place. Then in 1972 and 1973 there was an intense labor-management dispute over union representation. Other dealerships also had to confront unionization moves in those years, but Henderson Ford was hit hard. The dealership spent an estimated \$40,000 to fight an eighteen-point unfair labor practices case brought against John Henderson, according to one employee active in the Machinists' Union.

Though the union representation bid failed, the Hendersons' battles against unionization were far from over. Within two years the issue was to come up again in what would prove to be a far more costly and drawn-out challenge to the family's managerial autonomy. But before the second union battle arose, another even more serious problem began to emerge: stress within the Henderson family.

Employees narrowly voted down a contract with the Machinists, but the confrontations and tension are said to have cut in half the dealership's service productivity. "It was like a zoo," said a senior mechanic who stayed through the ordeal. The reputation of Henderson service suffered as a result of the labor problems, and the Hendersons' battles against unionization were far from over.

With two sons now in the business and his own hard climb to the top seeming to crest, John Henderson's life was changing.



Difficulties within his marriage were reported. The years of hard, tireless, work began taking their toll. Employees recalled that the man whose hair turned gray building his family's "golden egg," collapsed of exhaustion on at least one occasion in the process. A nervous condition surfaced, sometimes making it difficult to grasp Henderson's hand in a handshake. His thoughts turned to the Florida boating he'd left as a young man.

In 1974, these pressures came to a head. John Henderson left his wife and family, the dealership, and the automobile business. Taking permanent residence in Florida, he became a freelance sea captain, thus settling his nerves and starting a new life. "I sure don't miss those screaming telephones," he recently confided to a friend.

When John Henderson left town in 1974, Jack, then 31, became general manager, and Lew, 25, became sales manager. Jim, at 18 the youngest, was a U-M student not yet old enough to have earned his share of stock by work at the dealership. At this time Ruth, who had acquired a degree in business administration, began to take an active and interested role in operating the firm.

John may have relinquished management of the business when he moved to Florida, but he held onto his controlling stock interests. Ruth did not actually own any company stock herself, so she had no personal vote at shareholders' meetings, where many crucial business decisions were made.

Henderson Ford

*erson family helped bring about the collapse
largest auto dealerships.*

KATHY FRIEDRICH



The rigors of managing a big dealership were a hard test for the new Henderson team. The auto sales slump of 1975 came hard on the heels of Jack's becoming general manager. Renewed labor trouble in the shop compounded the problem. "Promises for more and better benefits never materialized," explained one senior shop mechanic. So a new union contract, this time with the Teamsters, was sought.

This new labor struggle lasted some two and a half years. Union representation was first won, then disputed, and finally defeated. The Teamsters were in for a full year, while the Hendersons worked with Detroit anti-union attorneys to oppose their demands. "To have fully accepted the Teamsters' demands would have driven us out of business right then and there," one of Jack's assistants maintains.

The union fight was expensive — it cost well over \$100,000. in two employees' opinions — and the protracted dispute kept the dealership from adopting tighter administration of pay systems for mechanics. Labor turmoil delayed the dealership in moving away from a 50-50 pay split that paid mechanics 50% of all labor charged out. Norms followed by other dealerships today are up to 60% for the dealer and 40% for the mechanic. "The old pay split was killing us," says Henderson executive Bob Freeman, who became supervisor of dealership service. Henderson finally adopted a Ford system that put the department on a tighter pay-to-production program,

The red ink was flowing at Henderson Ford as a combined result of the '75 sales slump, the long union struggle, the Dodge dealership's closing, and the management control problems. By 1978 operating losses were causing a serious cash drain. The facts were startling. An audit by Ford Credit showed a negative adjustment of \$381,000 in the dealership's net worth.

Compounding the firm's financial problems was its narrow capital base. Only four years into a 20-year mortgage, the company had little paid-in equity to borrow

but well after most other area dealerships.

Meanwhile, Henderson Dodge in Belleville was having troubles of its own — ever since the 1975 sales recession. Ruth Henderson went there to help out, but in 1977 the family faced up to the fact that they would have to close the dealership.

Added to the already sizeable difficulties the Hendersons faced was the growing tension between brothers Jack and Lew. Recognizing that he may have been too much the domineering big brother, and reacting to his mother's criticism, Jack sought to appease Lew and Ruth by giving up the general manager's post in favor

against. Reports indicate that what equity there was may have been used as partial leverage for outside investments. John and Jack, for example, were investing in residential properties. Jack pursued an interest in horses, even taking one as a trade-in on a new car. In Florida, John's fishing boat and later a yacht required investment funds. "Maybe they just took too much out of it," was one explanation given by several people close to the dealership.

In any event, in late 1977, the dealership's need for cash and recapitalization compounded a worsening of the relationship between the Hendersons. The result was to unleash a bitter family power struggle for control of the dealership.

Upset by a holiday confrontation with John in Florida, Ruth returned to Ann Arbor bent on gaining control of the dealership, according to reports. In the course of a transfer of multiple stock certificates to Jim, Ruth acquired one share of stock. This share provided pivotal voting control when on January 6, 1978, an abruptly called shareholders' meeting elected Ruth president of Henderson Ford. With her one share and support from Lew and Jim, she gained control.

Jack contested the validity of the meeting and later filed suit, claiming that "Ruth and Lew have wrongfully acquired control over the management policies and decisions of Henderson Ford Sales, Inc." Within a few weeks he resigned as general manager and left the business. Lew became general manager.

Within a month John had introduced himself into the rapidly-brewing controversy. He transferred his stock to Jack, giving his eldest son enough shares to regain control. The stage was set for a showdown. With Ruth backing Lew and John supporting Jack, a reckoning between the brothers was inevitable.

Negotiations began in an attempt to resolve the impasse by having one brother buy the other out and obtain clear ownership of the business. On February 25, 1978, Lew agreed to buy Jack out in a provisional agreement. But he couldn't raise enough cash to meet Jack's requirements, nor did Jack have the money to buy Lew out. So the agreement became null and void. In April negotiations broke down entirely.

The situation was still unresolved in summer, when Ford Credit began to audit Henderson Ford to find out what condition it was in. Ruth was seeking legal counsel from an acknowledged expert in automobile franchise control and dealership management. Jack, meanwhile, let Ford Motor Company know that he considered himself in control because he had received his father's stock transfer.

By August, 1978, Jack, together with his lawyer, Leonard Kitchen (who also represented father John) had reorganized his affairs in such a way that he now believed he could put together a purchase of the dealership for himself. He contacted Ruth and proposed a buy-out which would



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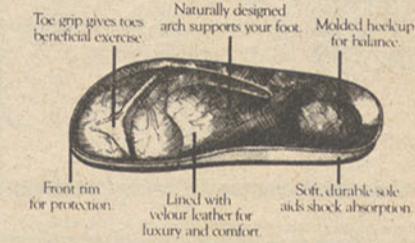
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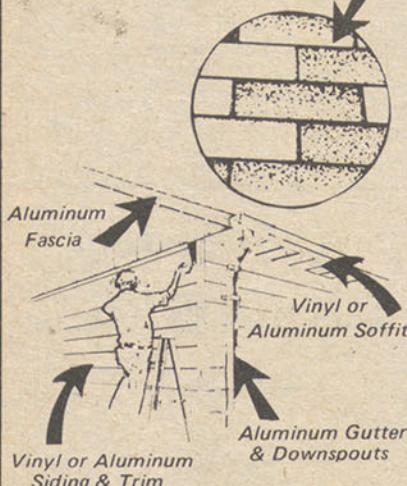


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leave the youngest brother, Jim, with stock but would cut Lew out.

Court testimony from Ruth reveals an emotional exchange. "He [Lew] can go to hell," Ruth quotes Jack as saying. Her reply to Jack was final: "I disown you, son. I'm sorry. I'm sticking with the son [Lew] that tried to keep this business going...."

The battle lines were clearly drawn. The final escalation came in fall, 1978, when Jack and John approached Ford Motor Company through their attorney to contest Ruth's authority to control the dealership. Knowing that control of the dealership hung in the balance, Ruth immediately filed for divorce from John. She claimed that John's stock was a joint marital asset in which she shared, and that the supposed transfer to Jack had, therefore, been illegal.

At the same time, the dealership needed capital even more desperately. But it was no longer possible for any of the family members to raise money from outside sources. In her testimony Ruth states, "I had borrowed anything from any source I had. Lew had borrowed from any source he had, to try and get it on its feet."

By October, 1978 the cash flow deficit was nearing \$500,000. Ruth wrote formal letters to John and Jack, trying to raise more money by asking them to subscribe their stock more fully. But, her testimony explains, "We didn't get anything back, and that's when we knew we stood in very bad shape. We admitted there was absolutely nothing that Lew, Jim, and I could do."

The Henderson dealership's continuing operating problems and the struggle over its control led the Ford Motor Company to step in with both feet in January, 1979. Ford officials notified Ruth and Lew that

they had 30 days to obtain control of Henderson Ford or face termination of their franchise.

Because the divorce was not final, Ruth had to petition the courts to claim her rights to the "marital stock" which she needed to win control. The business was the only source of income, she explained, for her, her 23-year-old son Jim and 19-year-old daughter Lynne. Judge Edward Deake awarded Ruth the marital stock on May 17, 1979, noting that John had given up certain rights of control by leaving for Florida. With that stock Ruth and Lew gained firm control of the dealership.

But Ruth didn't come out a winner. The ordeal had torn her family apart, and in her testimony she blamed the lawyers and the legal process for devastating her family. In court she said bitterly to John and Jack's attorney, Leonard Kitchen, "This family wouldn't have been split up if I could have talked to them and communicated. . . but everything had to go through you, Mr. Kitchen, who were also interested in a piece of the dealership. . . . I really feel that our three sons could have gone together if we didn't have someone pushing against us."

Jack wasn't about to sit back and let Ruth and Lew control the company. He remained a stockholder, of course, and in summer he filed a suit on behalf of all Henderson Ford stockholders against Ruth and Lew. A litany of allegations charged them with the mishandling of dealership accounts and improper corporate management. The suit sought an award to Jack for damages, and it enjoined Ruth and Lew from using corporate funds for their defense. It documented Lew's managerial difficulties by citing a \$35,000 penalty assessed by Ford in 1979 for improper handling of vehicle stock. But this suit was set aside when Lew seemed to "pull a rabbit out of the hat" in September of last year.

Lew had obtained the backing of Heinz Prechter, holder of the U.S. patent on auto sun roofs and a self-made millionaire. Through Servia, Inc., a spinoff company of American Sun Roof, Prechter put up \$400,000 just when Lew Henderson needed it most. Servia agreed to purchase Henderson Ford, and the deal needed only one thing to succeed: the blessing of the Ford Motor Company.

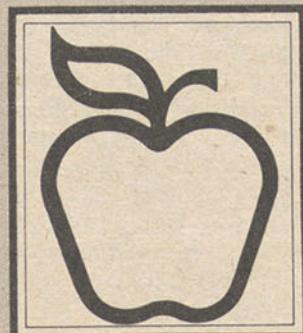
Ford's approval would be forthcoming, it was assumed. After all, Prechter was a well-known "big shooter" with close ties to the auto industry. Members of the Henderson family put the struggle for an internal solution behind them. They signed a comprehensive settlement agreement whereby the family partnership which held title to the land and buildings would be restructured and offer some measure of security for Prechter's investment until official transfer of the franchise.

Ruth and Lew happily hosted an after-hours celebration for dealership employees in the showroom after the recapitalization agreement through Servia was in hand.

At this point a new story begins. Relief for the beleaguered dealership seemed almost assured, but two giant problems lay ahead: the Ford Motor Company and the automotive recession of 1979 and '80.

When Lew Henderson went to Ford to renegotiate the franchise last fall, he met with a delay — some say a Ford stall. Ford's new district sales manager may have caused it; perhaps using the stockholder suit filed by Jack as an excuse. Or, Ford may simply have been sensitive about a key Ford subcontractor like Prechter being involved in a Ford dealership. Details about auto manufacturers' dealer placement decisions are extremely confidential, so we

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can only speculate on what happened as Ford studied Lew Henderson's plan, and studied it, and studied it.

Meanwhile, the second problem, recession, was making its entrance. By the time Henderson Ford finally received the much needed infusion of Prechter's \$400,000 in September, 1979, even that sum wasn't enough. The tide could not be turned.

Lew is quoted as saying that at one period the firm had been "out of trust" more than \$400,000. "Out of trust" means the dealership is using the money from vehicle sales to cover operating expenses instead of repaying Ford Credit for its "trust loan" for the vehicle. If a manufacturer's "floor check" finds a dealer with cars sold yet not paid off, the dealer must either pay up immediately or face closure by the manufacturer. It's not hard for an operation of Henderson's size to become \$400,000 out of trust, another dealership manager told us. But financially it's catastrophic.

Last fall was an especially bad time to be in a financial pinch. The auto sales recession started in summer, when banks began to tighten up making auto loans. The State of Michigan's 12.84% interest ceiling on new auto loans made them highly unprofitable as inflation climbed to recent heights. Henderson's inventory began to balloon, and that devastating trend persisted into 1980 as the cost of borrowing money soared while the interest ceiling stayed fixed.

So, although Henderson Ford was tem-

porarily back in trust as a result of better internal cash flow and Prechter's capital, the cost of carrying its ballooning inventory kept increasing. Each of the cars in stock ("floor planned," in dealer terminology) had been paid off with loans from Ford Credit when delivered — at interest rates pegged at 1% above prime. As the prime rate rose, the dealership faced steadily increasing carrying costs on more and more

Henderson Ford was now in a hapless situation. Ford still hadn't approved its sale to Servia, which would have given the firm continuing access to new capital. And in January, 1980, Ford Credit again found the dealership out of trust, to the tune of \$70,000, according to an informed observer.

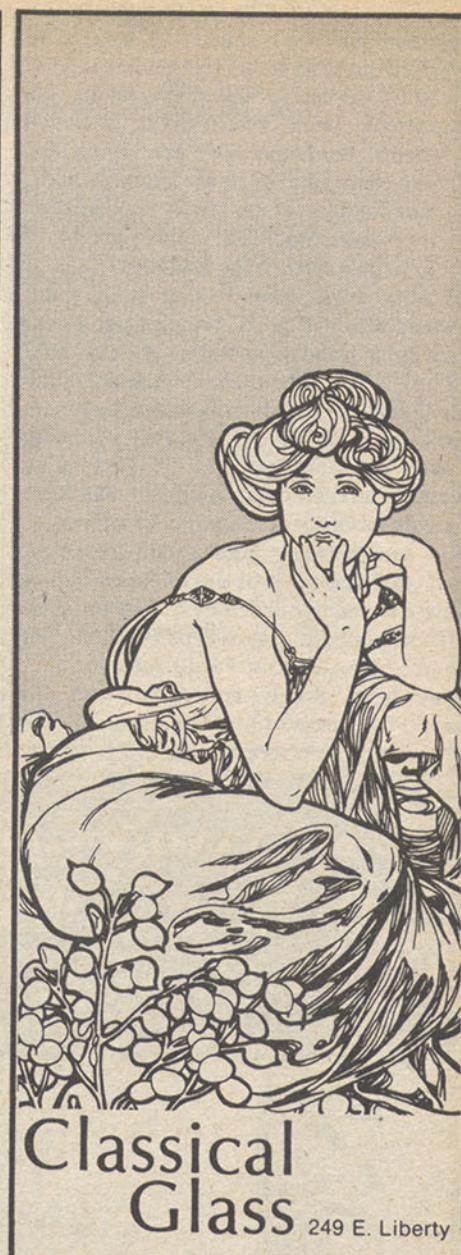
That apparently was the final straw. Ford came in and took over after January 1. A representative from Ford Credit collected all new car keys, and all sales began to be processed and paid to Ford Credit. Mechanics working on new cars had to obtain vehicle keys from their place of safekeeping — the trunk of the Ford Credit rep's car.

The dealership now had no financing and no income from new car sales. Lew Henderson had to announce to employees that the dealership could not guarantee paychecks beyond January 23. A few mechanics stayed on, but there was no cash to continue the business. The last of the regular line mechanics to leave, a 34-year veteran with Ann Arbor's Ford dealership, packed up his tools on February 8.



Henderson Ford's doors were closed to the public. But the behind-the-scenes struggle for control and the jockeying for position continued. In February, it is said, Ford finally let Lew know it wouldn't accept the sales agreement with Servia and Heniz Prechter.

Why Ford refused to work with Lew Henderson's plan is a story of its own. One



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Tired of dissension within the family and impatient with continuing financial problems, Ford Motor Company may have been motivated to take charge and settle the situation itself, eliminating Henderson family participation.

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A Ford "floor check" in November caught Henderson out of trust again. To avoid a closure deadline from Ford Credit, Henderson's used car manager reportedly arranged a short-term loan. But with Henderson's 1979 sales 30% lower than in 1978, the handwriting was on the wall. Ford began closing the doors — to both the agreement with Prechter and Servia and consequently to Henderson Ford itself.

"Ford can be very brutal. They have been brutal to me," said another dealer who gave up his dealership as a result of the sales recession. "Ford Credit will lock your doors in two minutes if you're out of trust," he said ruefully. When interviewed, he was still waiting for overdue warranty and policy money and for parts return authorization from Ford.

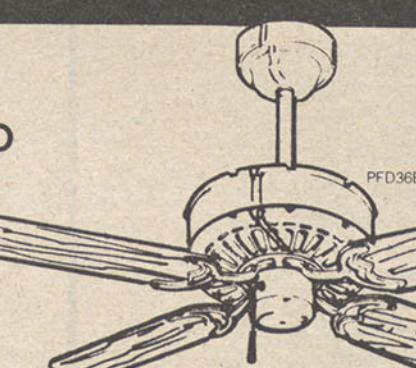
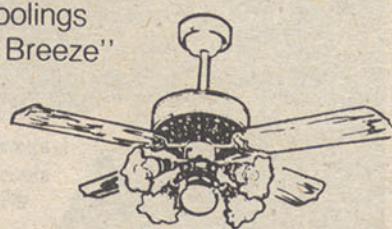
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suggestion, referred to as "logical" by an anonymous Ford source, is that Ford resolved in 1979 to force Henderson out. Tired of dissension within the family and impatient with continuing financial problems, Ford may have been motivated to take charge and settle the situation itself, eliminating Henderson family participation in the dealership. That's the opinion of many people close to the operation.

Another explanation is that Ford wants owners who will be at their dealerships the way John Henderson was in the old days. "Ford is not interested in absentee dealers," said one self-described company man. Perhaps Ford felt that Prechter's subcontractor relationships with other auto manufacturers through American Sun Roof patents was a possible conflict of interest.

A source inside Ford Credit, however, indicated that the problem of approval may have been compounded by the operator for Henderson Ford proposed by Prechter. Our source indicated that Ford's rejection may have been closely connected with the would-be operator's relationship to the

Jack contested the validity of the stockholders meeting and later filed suit, claiming "that Ruth and Lew had wrongfully acquired control...of Henderson Ford Sales, Inc." Within a few weeks he resigned...and left the business.

failure of a downriver Ford dealership a few years ago. Ford Motor Company would neither confirm nor deny this report.

Actions taken in March, 1980, at the Jackson Road dealership supported the theory of a waiting game between Lew Henderson and his spurned backers on the one hand and Ford Motor Company on the other. On the first Sunday in March, Lew and a few loyal employees used the dealership's tow vehicles to bring the remaining inventory of 150 vehicles behind locked gates. When Ford Credit employees arrived

on March 3 to continue selling off the inventory, they were denied access to the building and the secured storage area.

Lew still maintains control of the land and buildings through the family's land holding co-partnership, the R.O. Company. But locking up Ford's cars and continuing thereafter to operate on a very select basis, as he did in March, has provided Lew precious little leverage against Ford's trump cards.

Ford's power in the dispute stems not only from its direct financing of inventory

and operations, but from its rights as franchisor. Finally, Ford holds the mortgage on the land and buildings themselves, making Servia's \$400,000 "security" in the R.O. Company a secondary interest to that of Ford's first mortgage rights.

It may or may not be worthwhile for Servia to pay off the mortgage and attempt to gain full control of R.O. Company from the Henderson partners. In March, this course of action seemed a possibility. Lew was said to say that "Ford will never re-open a dealership on this location."

By early April, however, there were indications of appeasement. Lew gave Ford Credit access to the locked storage area, returning all remaining demo's and 1979 cars, a former employee reports. Lew also planned a two-month "leave," reportedly heading for Florida.

With sales continuing to slump, money today is tight for the "big shooters" as well as the potential car buyers. It is highly unlikely that H. Prechter or anybody else will want to invest more heavily in a dealership that can't forecast profitable perfor-



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mance under current economic conditions.

The waiting game will continue as much as another six months, says one informed observer. "By then the economy may be right for recapitalization by a new dealer," he adds. As for the local suppliers holding receivables from Henderson Ford, their settlement will await the disposition of the dealership.

Evaluating the business's capacity to pay off its debts, Henderson's Service and Parts Director Freeman says he still believes they will all be paid off. This contention is supported by a Ford Credit source, who says, "Nobody is going to get hurt real bad."

□

What about the next Ford dealer in Ann Arbor? There are a host of names in the wind — most of them waiting for improvements in the business climate and the economic outlook for Ford. A general sales manager of another Ford dealership commented that "owner prospects are few, and dealerships are plentiful." He suggested a drive west along I-94 as a study in Ford dealer problems. "After Henderson comes the Grass Lake dealership, which closed at the end of 1979; then the Jackson, Michigan dealership, which is presently

having financial trouble; the Battle Creek dealership, which opened in 1979 and didn't last a year; and the Albion dealer is also struggling."

But winds will blow and times will change. Ford promises smaller and more fuel-efficient cars, despite huge investment requirements and continuing reports of engineering problems. Successful Michigan Ford dealers such as Dean Sellers, Nick Flannery, even Pat Milliken are reported to have looked at the Henderson Ford facility. Past Ford and Volvo dealer Herb Estes is mentioned. Also, the name of John Henderson's original backer, Gil Schaefer, now in Florida, may re-emerge. Schaefer, after all, retains a significant financial stake in the dealership as a result of its failure to retire his original interests as prescribed.

As for the Henderson family, more clarification is expected once Ford moves definitively to appoint a succeeding dealer. Reached by phone, Ruth Henderson indicated that she would like to have the entire matter dealt with candidly and out in the open. The possibility of a court case with Ford, however, remains. On legal advice at this time, therefore, her only statement is that, "We still hold the Ford franchise in Ann Arbor." □

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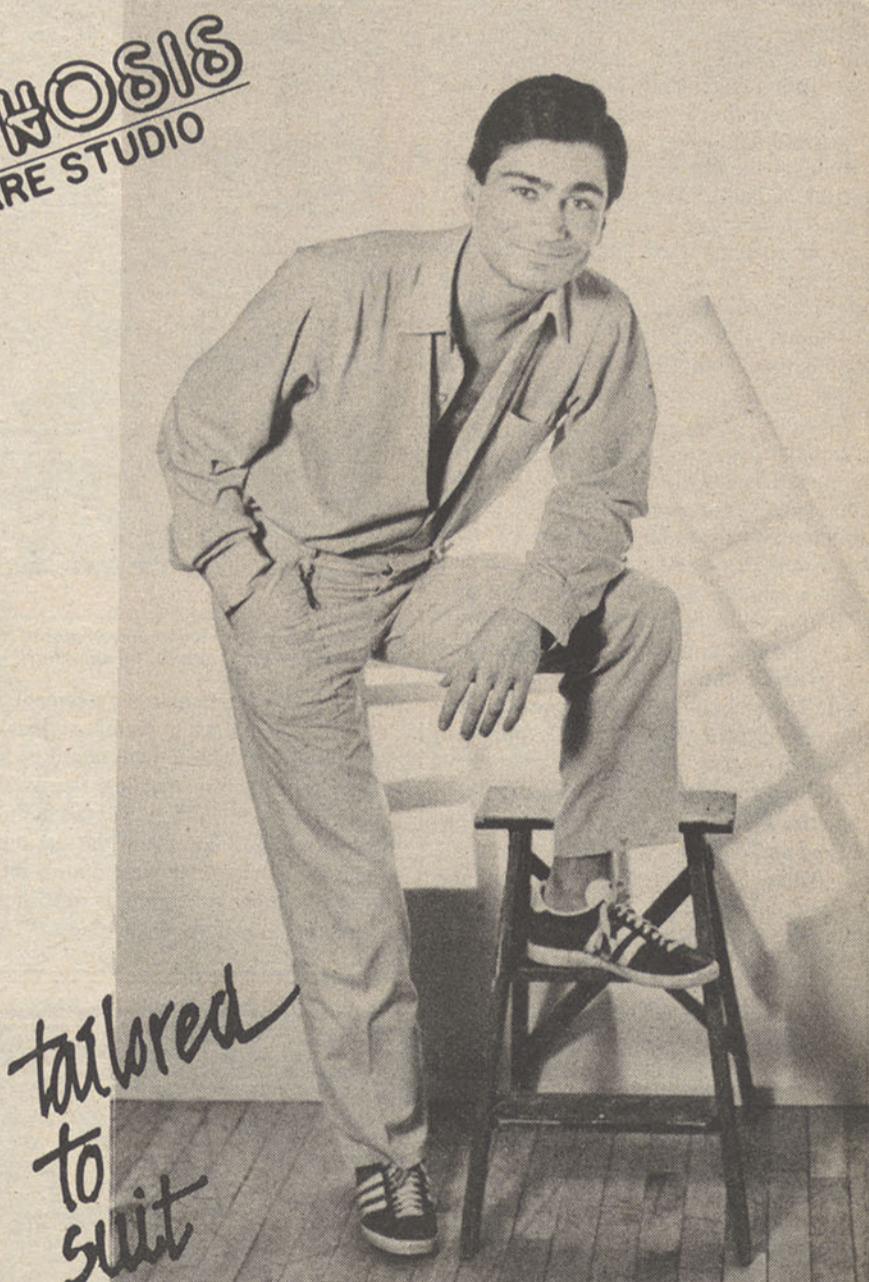
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Who Torched Eden Foods?

Eden Foods' warehouse burned down last November. Now Hartford Insurance is refusing to pay the half million dollars in damages, claiming Eden owners set the fire. The owners, who have been cleared by lie detector tests, will have to fight the giant insurance company in court.

By MARY HUNT

Last fall was a good time for Eden Foods. After several years of shaky expansion, the management of the natural foods wholesaling firm had matured. "Having done everything wrong, we finally learned how to do it right," one manager said. The operation had trimmed its staff to an efficient size and was at the peak of its most profitable season ever. Its warehouses out on Platt Road were packed full of the whole wheat flour, organically-grown grain, and other natural foods products for which the 11-year-old Ann Arbor company is noted.

Then on the morning of November 27, disaster struck. Owners Cliff Adler, Michael Potter, and Tim Redmond got calls at 6 a.m. that the main 13,500-square-foot warehouse was on fire, and when they arrived, the cement blocks were glowing red and flames from the burning food were jumping twenty and thirty feet through the ceiling. The warehouse and its contents were a total loss.

A state fire marshall concluded that the fire was caused by arson. The business's owners volunteered for lie detector tests and passed them, but Hartford's lawyer, Charles Tuffley of Southfield, has written a letter denying the claim, stating that "a fire was set or procured to be set by your principal stockholders [Adler, Potter, and Redmond]." His letter then charged them with concealment and fraud. When contacted, he declined to comment further on the case. The Hartford's supervisor of property claims for the case told us, "We have no comment to make whatsoever."

Hartford's refusal to honor the claim has shocked and outraged Eden's management. Says Adler, "We followed every rule and regulation [established by Hartford] in good faith. The public adjustor we hired



PETER YATES

Eden Foods' employees and the remains of their warehouse (from left to right): Ron Roller, Mike Gordon, Chris Burnam, Dip Joshi, Mike Jackson, Michael Potter (foreground), Juanita Morris, Peter Klaver, Jake Cordova, Clifford Adler (foreground), Bená Burda, Robert Duha, Kathy Nohr, Bob Elton

worked out a gentleman's agreement with Tuffley to settle after proof of loss was submitted. We figured there might be some differences as to the amount, but we'd get the money. Then Tuffley delayed action — 30 days, 45 days. But up to the last minute he led us to believe we were gonna get our money. On April 4 we get this shocking letter saying, 'You burned the place!'" Adler

suspects that a personal enemy of one of the owners may have set the fire.

Today, five months later, Eden Foods has yet to collect on its \$500,000 claim submitted to The Hartford insurance company. It now appears that Eden will have to go to court to settle the claim, and that process can take a long time. Meanwhile, Hartford is collecting today's current high

interest rates on its reserves set aside for the Eden claim, while Michigan law requires it to pay only 12% a year on that money.

"They [the insurance company] are playing a game," says an attorney who often represents insurance companies in claims filed in another state, when he was told of the case. "Unfortunately, it's rather common. If I had passed a lie detector test

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and they hadn't paid within ten days, I'd have sued the hell out of them."

A disaster of such magnitude might seem sure to doom a small company without big cash reserves. But Eden Foods is coping better than its owners had expected, according to General Manager Cliff Adler. At 25, he's been with Eden three years and has handled day-to-day operations for the past nine months. Adler has the relaxed style of someone to whom managing comes naturally.

"We knew we had to get our business going soon," he began. "Customers can't remain loyal too long. If we shut down very long, we'd be out of business. The second day after the fire, we had to ask about half our staff of 44 to leave, which was hard. We just didn't have the money to pay them. The rest of us put in 15 or 20-hour-days for the next month or two.

"In the beginning we wanted to talk to the insurance adjustors. They acted like we had burned the place — put us on the defensive. That threw us into a whole other head set. We thought, 'whoa! This is a little different than we thought.' Hartford wasn't going to send its 10-point stag to the rescue, like in the ads. So we all [all three owners] took lie detector tests.

"You set up an appointment with the sheriff's department's polygraph examiner and develop questions with him. The test lasts four and a half hours. It's pretty intense. By the end of the exam, you've been asked the question so many times, you couldn't be sure you're telling the truth. You think, maybe your spirit left your body and cruised over and torched the warehouse. Yet I passed with flying colors. This guy keys right into your system — you've got to be one heck of a con artist not to tell him the truth.

"Then because it's a case of arson, the insurance company sends their private investigators trying to dig up anything about anyone connected with Eden Foods. We all have things we're not proud of, and rumors fly around a town like Ann Arbor pretty fast. But Eden Foods the company has nothing to hide."

The weeks after the fire were filled with two exhausting activities: tediously piecing together the insurance claims and getting the business back into physical operation. The fire had destroyed all records of what had been in the warehouse, so just to file the insurance claim required contacting over 350 suppliers for old invoices. To maintain credit and receive new shipments required buyers Ron Roller and Bill Swaney to talk to suppliers by phone and explain the post-fire recovery plan.

Eden also had to figure out how to

operate physically out of the 5000-square-foot overflow warehouse, now that the big warehouse was gone. First, the number of items stocked was trimmed. Peripheral items like "natural" toothpaste and shampoos were eliminated, and the firm concentrated more on the high-quality, organically-grown grains on which its reputation had originally been based. Eden Foods began as a macrobiotically-oriented cooperative and has consistently represented the more idealistic, puristic, quality-before-price wing of the diverse natural-foods field. Its buyers take pains to develop contacts with farmers committed to strict organic growing standards.

Even the aisles of the small warehouse were used to store food for awhile, until new storage racks arrived. Every morning the stock stored in the aisles was moved out to the parking lot and put under tarps, and every night it was laboriously moved back in again — an extra process taking six hours in all.

Packaging bulk food into consumer portions had been a significant part of Eden's business before the fire, accomplished with equipment that was also destroyed. Much of it was largely homemade. Having been paid for out of operating expenses, it couldn't be considered a capital investment to be recovered in the Claim. Today some package operations have been jobbed out locally; others continue on newly-concocted equipment in the remaining warehouse.

"The fire made us rethink every aspect of our operation," Adler says. "There's no fat left in it." Some of the social amenities have, gone, too — the free vegetarian lunches cooked at the warehouse, the easy-going pace, the ample personal work space and private offices — and the frequent evening socializing as well, at least in Adler's case. Interactions at work are now so intense for him — he spends much of his day on the phone telling suppliers that the insurance claim still hasn't been paid — that he needs quiet time at home.

"We're real proud of what we're doing," he declares. "The insurance company has our money, and we're still going. Our biggest debt we've worked down from \$50,000 to \$10,000. But until our claim is paid, we have to operate on a flat growth curve, and that's almost impossible. We don't have money to invest to be able to grow and take advantage of new opportunities. We can't lose any, because we'd go out of business fast. Fortunately, we have been able to make money on the guts and determination of our employees — thanks to the generosity of our suppliers, the patience of our bank [Ann Arbor Trust], and a bit of luck."



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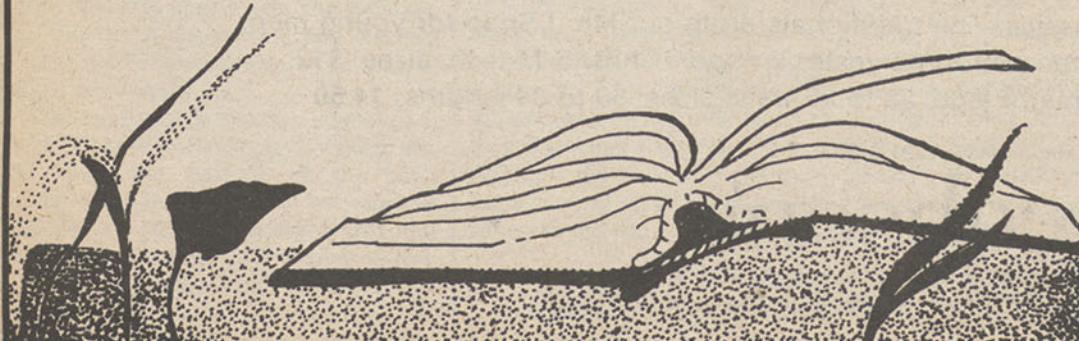
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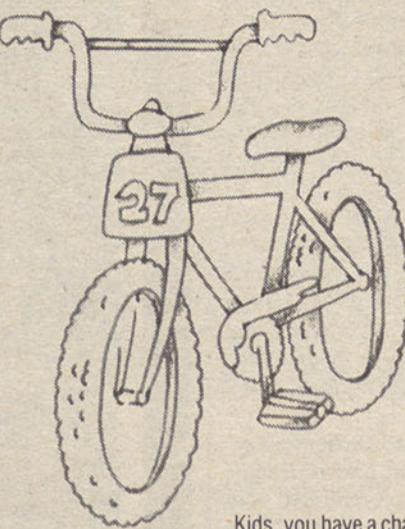
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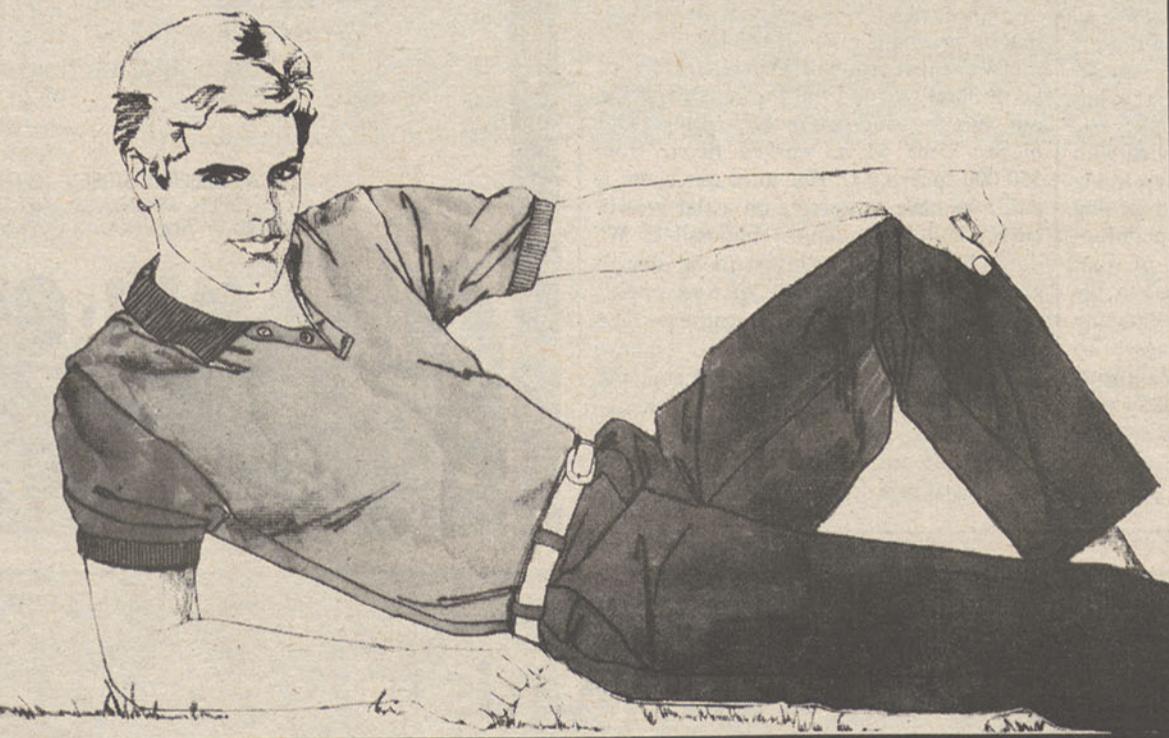
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Trouble at Second Chance

A local nightclub that features live rock and roll bands is becoming a serious public nuisance.

By LEO SHARKEY and DON HUNT



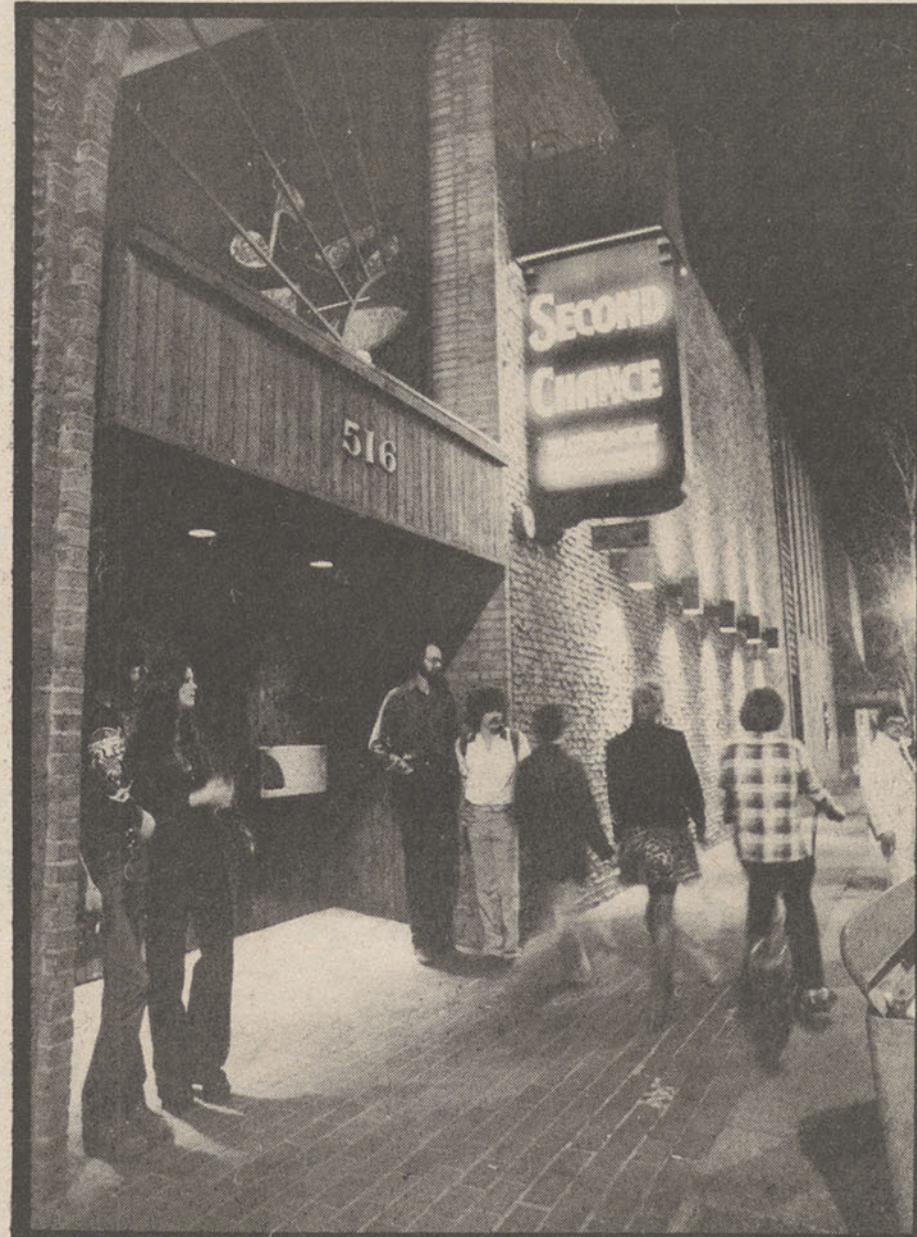
ast March 29, when Philip Gosur and Roger Neirynck drove out from the Detroit suburbs for a night on the town, it probably never occurred to them that danger lay ahead. But before the night was over, they felt they had barely escaped with their lives.

They were unexpectedly attacked by a bouncer at Second Chance nightclub. Gosur, a short and muscular man of 25, says he was struck "two or three times" in the right temple by the bouncer's fist while the bouncer held him by the hair. He got off comparatively easy with a "severe headache that's lasted for weeks." But tall and lanky Neirynck, also 25, says he was "punched in the face repeatedly" by the same bouncer while being removed from the nightclub — almost pushed over the balcony railing on the way — and as a result was "spitting up blood for three weeks." He received a broken eye socket and continues to have a partial paralysis of the right cheek, as well as a broken septum which prevents breathing out of his left nostril. He also has a bruised right knee, pushed in teeth, and like his friend Gosur, severe dizziness.

Just the Saturday before the Neirynck incident, Allan Gosdzinski, a 26-year-old barber at Nickels Arcade, says he was kicked and his hair pulled out by a bouncer — "at least two handfuls" — when he visited Second Chance on March 22. While Gosdzinski would not further describe his injuries, one witness told *The Michigan Daily* that he saw Gosdzinski frequently vomit blood after he "was really worked over." In the same article, another witness said he saw a bouncer wearing boots kicking Gosdzinski in the face.

Three *Michigan Daily* reporters got an eyeful when they decided to visit Second Chance in early April, the week after the Neirynck incident. They were in the bar less than five minutes when they saw "a bouncer with no apparent reason [strike] a patron standing quietly near the staircase. The bouncer swung around and watched for the patron's reaction. The patron walked slowly away."

What happened to a person employed at Second Chance to play records between acts may show the attitude of the bar's management. It was early in the morning after the final set, and the disc jockey normally played records until the bar closed. But another Second Chance employee, who turned out to be in charge that night, told the disc jockey to stop playing the records.



PETER YATES

The disc jockey questioned this person's authority and suggested he check with the person who had hired him to play the records. The man became increasingly agitated and finally said, "OK, you're going out." The disc jockey started packing up his records, but the man came back with a bouncer, who grabbed the disc jockey, dragged and kicked him across the room, then threw him forcefully down a flight of stairs. At the bottom of the stairs, he was again jumped on and subsequently choked so severely he was hoarse for three days.



Fights with bouncers can happen in any bar, but they happen more at Second Chance

than any other nightclub in Ann Arbor, according to police Lt. Dale Heath and Sgt. William Canada. Canada says, "Bouncer incidents have always been at Second Chance, but they're happening more frequently in the past year."

Now, finally, three victims have stepped forward to press charges against Second Chance bouncers. The stories Gosur and Neirynck told in court give a sense of how such beatings can occur.

Gosur, a painter for Armstrong Paints in Redford, and Neirynck, a community service officer with the Farmington Hills police, are fans of Fifties music, so when they heard that Dr. Bop and the Headliners were playing at a place called Second Chance

out in Ann Arbor that Saturday night, they decided to go. Arriving at eleven that evening, they met two girls, danced with them a few times, had three or four beers at a balcony table with them before the four got up to say goodbye to each other at about two a.m. The band had broken up and left, and the crowd was leaving. Just then, Gosur says, he noticed about ten or twelve feet away a "bouncer sitting on a customer's chest, hitting him in the face and pulling out his hair." To Gosur the person being beaten was motionless, and Gosur thought he was going to die. "I approached the bouncer and yelled from the top of my lungs, 'Stop It! You're killing him!'" Whereupon, Gosur says, another bouncer standing at his right grabbed Gosur's hair and began hitting him in the right side of the head. As Neirynck tells it, his reaction was to call the police when he saw the man being beaten. So when Gosur approached the scene, Neirynck "grabbed Gosur's arm to leave and call the police." Instead, he says he was struck in the face by the bouncer after the bouncer had finished hitting Gosur. Neirynck says the bouncer was "punching me as he was walking me over to the railing." Still gripping Neirynck's hair tightly, he took hold of Neirynck's leg beneath the knee and tried to force him over the balcony railing and down to the dance floor. Neirynck says he did not fight back, but held desperately onto the railing with one hand, grabbing with his other hand the bouncer's hand, which was clenching Neirynck's hair.

In that position, Neirynck says, he was hit square in the face and then slumped to the balcony floor. The bouncer, he says, then began choking him and, picking him up and binding one of Neirynck's arms behind him, he pushed him downstairs, where the bouncer fell on top of him. Picking Neirynck up again, the bouncer shoved him to the door.

Neirynck explains that he never attempted to defend himself all the while the bouncer was hitting him and saying, "You f--- with me and I'm going to kill you," because he feared he'd be in worse trouble from the other bouncers standing by.

While Neirynck was being pushed to the door, Gosur says the blows he received had dazed him. He did not help Neirynck. Neither did the other patrons in the balcony, he says. They got up to leave, putting on their coats and "looking at the fight as they left." Gosur adds that he saw two bouncers come and carry away the patron who had been beaten, one of them "chuckling" as he did so. Once outside, Neirynck made his way across the street to

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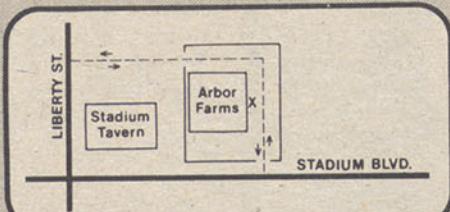
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From then on, Neirynck's experience with the bouncer gathered momentum as a legal case, stirring official and public concern all the while. Four days later, a warrant charging assault and battery was issued against the bouncer whom Neirynck named as his attacker, 22-year-old Edward Abbott. Sixteen days later, that charge was increased to a felony — assault with intent to do great bodily harm.

Thomas DeJonge was the patron whom Gosur and Neirynck saw being beaten on March 29. A 24-year-old U-M senior from Holland, Mich., DeJonge says he was in the hospital from 2 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. for treatment and examination of internal injuries following the incident.

Neirynck and DeJonge have filed criminal complaints. DeJonge's lawyer, Mark Hopper, is planning to go a step further by filing a civil action suit. All this surprises Second Chance owner John Carver. "We weren't aware of the complaints until they all started coming in at once," he says. So far, three Second Chance bouncers, Abbott, Greg Dalder, 19, and Daniel Haisenleder, 30, have been charged with assaulting the patrons. Carver says the three, along with night manager Kelly Connors, have resigned because they're "scared to death." He says no one was fired.

In Neirynck's case, an initial misdemeanor charge of assault and battery was dropped because further investigation suggested a more serious intent in Abbott's actions, according to assistant prosecutor Robert Cooper. Cooper refers to the prolonged time of the attack, the threat that Abbott made ("You f--- with me, and I'm going to kill you"), and Abbott's attempt to throw Neirynck over the railing. "Of course," adds Cooper, "if he had been suc-

cessful in throwing him over the railing, it would be assault with intent to murder." Bouncer Abbott's attorney, V. Carl Shaner, was disappointed that 15th District Court Judge Pieter Thomassen sustained the felony charge at the April 23 preliminary examination. He claimed that the greater charge requires the prosecutor to show that a "useful weapon" was present, more than just Abbott's hands.

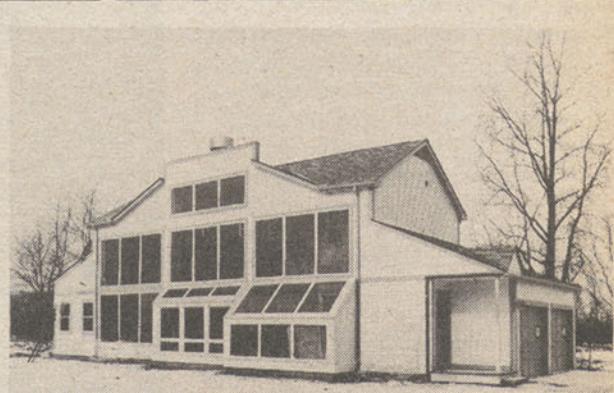
Second Chance manager John Carver witnessed the Neirynck incident. His version of the episode explains his bouncers' actions regarding DeJonge. He says U-M student DeJonge began throwing beer mugs from the second floor to the dance floor. That's when trouble began. When a bouncer confronted DeJonge, Carver says, DeJonge hit the bouncer first. The bouncer, Dan Haisenleder, and others subdued DeJonge and held him "until DeJonge said, 'Okay, I give up.'" As soon as DeJonge was released, says Carver, "Dan got blasted in the nose and in the struggle got bit in the side, right through the shirt."

"You got to understand," Carver explains, "things were tense. We had quite a crowd gathered around at this. We had a near-riot on our hands."

□
Carver blames the recent trouble on the crowds. "We have 3,000 people a week coming through here, and you're going to have trouble." He adds that "a lot of people from outside Detroit come. They're not the liberal-minded kind you get in Ann Arbor."

While blaming the frequent incidences of violence at Second Chance on the rowdy crowds, Carver fails to point out that he is responsible for attracting the crowds and for feeding them the alcohol that undoubtedly is a major catalyst of the violence.

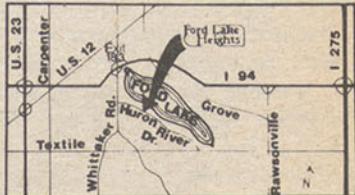
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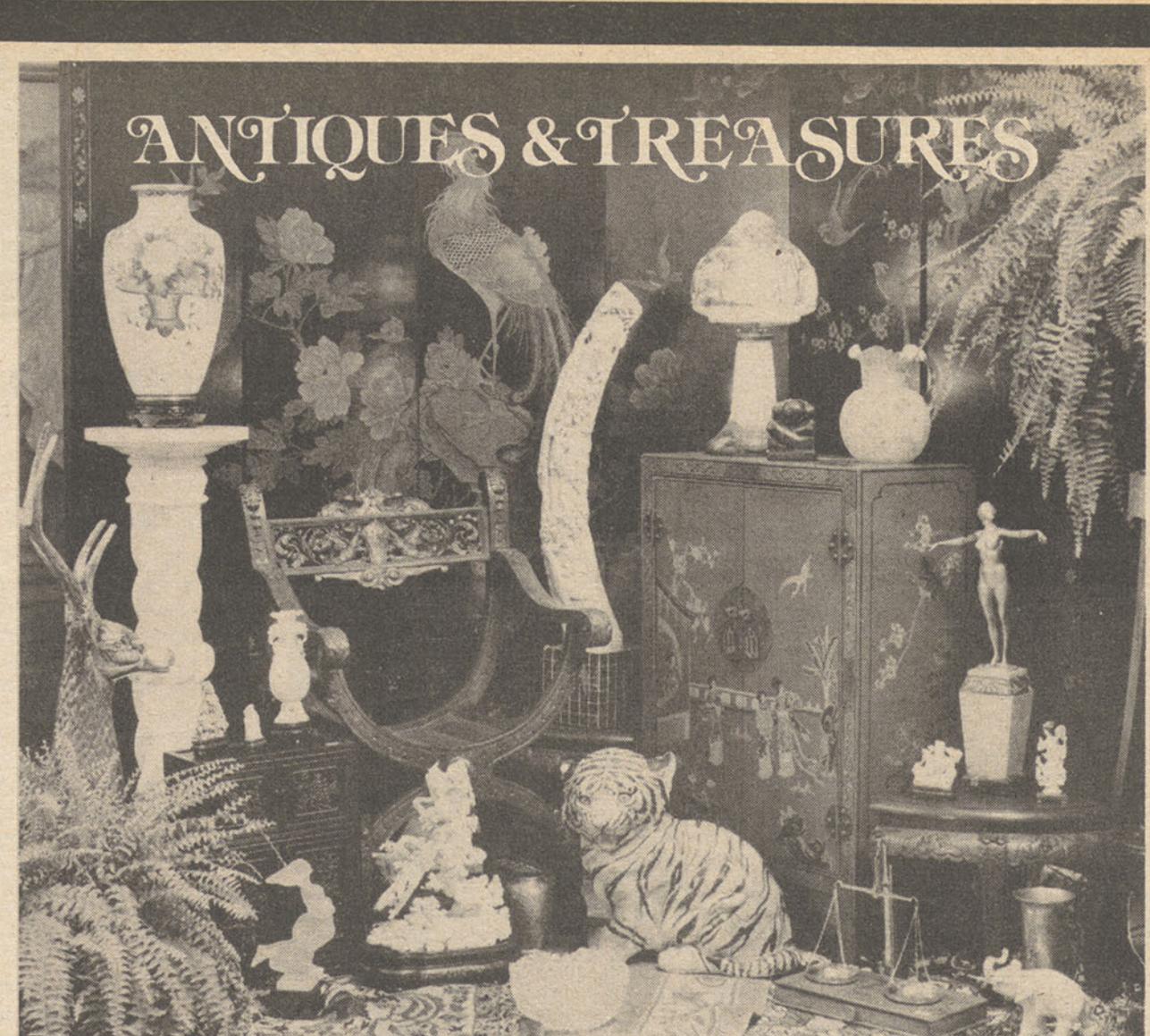
**Ford Lake
Heights**

The attitude of Second Chance's management might be inferred from its recent reaction to a riot that recently occurred there while a punk band was playing. Soon after the riot, they placed a newspaper ad showing a picture of the destruction littering the stage. Accompanying the photo were the words, "Second Chance—Where Else?"

Since opening six years ago, Second Chance has been a public nuisance in more ways than just the beatings its bouncers give customers. Long-time Ann Arborite Ruth Rolston lives behind the bar and has repeatedly complained of the terrific noise caused by the live bands that play there. But her complaints to Second Chance owner/manager John Carver produced no results. She recalls, "He told me, 'Lady, the only thing I'm interested in is the jingle of the cash register.'" Rolston has finally given up and is moving away. "I sure feel sorry for the people who move in here after me," she says.

The crowds that pour out of Second Chance at closing time early in the morning create a big problem for neighboring retail stores. Fights among Second Chance customers and acts of wanton destruction are common. Says one shop owner, "It's like entering a war zone every time I come to work in the morning." Trash and broken glass litter the area. Limbs are broken from the trees along the street. Store windows are broken, and vomit is found in doorways.

City Attorney Bruce Laidlaw says it is tough to shut down a business like Second Chance unless it can be established that only by closing it can the nuisance it causes be avoided. But if the pattern of abuses at Second Chance continues, there would seem to be plenty of grounds for ridding the community of a business whose only concern is "the jingle of the cash register." □



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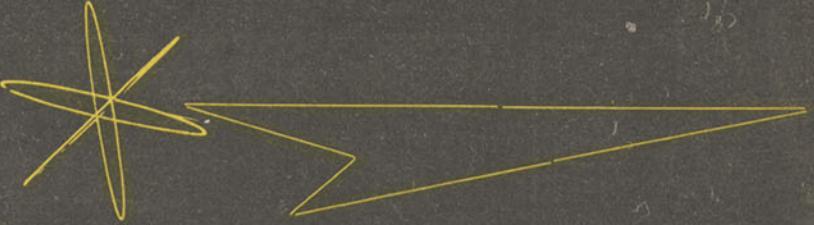
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Why the epitome of tacky Fifties comeback

By ANNETTE CHURCHILL

Take a neon sign tour of the Ann Arbor area. Start with the Washtenaw strip, which jumps with neon and electric sign color as it nears Ypsilanti. Free from the constraints of the Ann Arbor sign ordinance, the strip is alive with free-standing signs that blink and flash, creating a classic atmosphere of neon excitement. Then tour downtown Ann Arbor, keeping your eyes open for neon signs, and notice the small, classy one in the window at Ayla's dress shop, (currently located at 213 E. Liberty, but soon to move to Main Street next to Wilkinson Luggage). Ayla's is typical of the sleek new neon signs — chic and sophisticated.

Neon signs are coming back in style. A neon lamp or object may soon glow in your living room. The evidence of a revival in neon is everywhere. You see neon's style in print media (the Salem Lights ads,) and on TV (Channel 4's "Go 4 It" promotions). Neon signs never died out completely, but since the Fifties there has been a marked decline in their number.

The rediscovery of the excitement of neon comes at a time when the masters of the intricate technology employed in fabricating neon signs are between sixty and seventy years old. These older men are suddenly finding themselves sought after as teachers by young neon enthusiasts who want to learn tube bending, bombarding, charging, burning in, aging, pressure adjustment, and all the other arcane techniques of the craft.

New York, Los Angeles, and Detroit are all experiencing the beginnings of a neon boom. For the moment, Detroit, with its relatively large number of neon craftsmen like the celebrated Paul Bruner of Harper Woods, is in the forefront of the movement. Bruner designed Detroit's famous Mobil sign of a flying red horse that flapped its wings.

People who work in neon fabrication are feeling the multiple influences at work in the new decorative modes. They say that neon "is about to take off."

One important influence at work is a stylistic one. After a decade-long love affair with Art Nouveau, interior designers are turning increasingly to Art Deco for inspiration. Art Deco is the early Thirties style that featured sleek curves and vigorous geometric design worked in glass, stainless steel, and chrome. Often Art Deco was enlivened with neon light, whose characteristics suited its spirit of high technology. (Ann Arbor's bus station on Huron has a splendid Art Deco facade and neon sign.) Art Deco was "modern" in the Thirties, and so was neon.



It had long been known that all gases, even mixtures of them like air, will glow when

charged with sufficient voltage. Lightning is a natural example. The rare gases, neon and argon, were known to glow red and blue respectively when they were introduced into a partial vacuum in a glass tube and charged with up to 15,000 volts. The electrodes used at first, however, had a short life, so that neon lighting, while extremely energy efficient, was impractical. Neon wasn't taken seriously until a Frenchman named Georges Claude developed long-lasting electrodes in the Twenties. With Claude's breakthrough, the French went ga-ga over neon. At one time every intricate detail of the base of the Eiffel Tower, up to a height of one hundred and eighty feet, was traced in blue, green, and pink neon light!

Whatever gases are employed, the word neon is used generically by everyone to describe linear design rendered by incandescent gases. Argon and neon are the ones most commonly used. Starting with the natural color properties of these two gases, craftsmen in the U.S. have developed fourteen colors, extending the range by coating the inside of tubes with fluorescent powders or by tinting the glass tubing itself. Japan, whose cities vibrate with neon, uses an incredible palette of forty colors. Neon light has been described as a "living flame," but because it is shadowless, the light it casts is cold. Neon light is visible energy; you can almost see the molecular dance that produces the glow. Neon light is kinetic. It energizes design.

Because neon signs last forever (theoretically, at least), Ann Arbor has a number of survivors from neon's golden age in the Thirties, Forties, and early Fifties. The one in front of Michigan Signs on Jackson Road is said to have been made by Walt Ernst, one of the city's first "benders," as neon craftsmen are called. Michigan Signs also made the splendid example in front of the Beer Depot on William Street. It was installed in 1941 or 42. The Everett's Drive-In sign (which appeared on the cover of the June, 1979, Ann Arbor Observer) was made by Earl Norton of Ann Arbor. Norton, who is in his sixties, has worked for Michigan Signs for many years. A master sign designer and maker who works in many materials, he is an expert in neon. Now two young Ann Arborites, Donna Scarmuzza and Jeff Jones, are making arrangements to study the craft with him.

Scarmuzza and Jones do not aspire to become sign makers, however. They are making and marketing neon decorative objects for use in people's homes. Not lamps, and not exactly serious sculpture, either, such objects are becoming increasingly popular as accent points in interior design. Scarmuzza and Jones have formed the Neon Art Company at 416 W. Jefferson, where they are producing such things as a neon cactus in a terra cotta pot, a neon

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parrot, and a neon rainbow.

From the world of the fine arts comes still another spur to the renaissance of neon. Two years ago Gallery One at 113 South Fourth Avenue had an extensive show of neon sculpture by Ronald Coleman of Bowling Green, Ohio. One piece was a stylized tree with swirls of glass tubing suggesting branches and leaves. Several gases pulsated in different colors and "moved" as circuits were cut in and out.

New ways of using neon are coming from the world of rock concerts and discos. Illuminating engineers like Stefan Graf of Ypsilanti, whose background is in this kind of theatrical lighting, are now moving into the areas of outdoor illumination of buildings and even interior home lighting using theatrical effects. "You can remodel your place with light alone, but only a skilled illuminating engineer can do it," Graf says. He is very interested in the new ways of using neon. Encasing neon designs in smoked plexiglas is one of the new ways of mounting them, and the effect is beautiful. The plexiglas keeps the light from scattering. The design glows bright and sharp on a black ground, and when the current is turned off all you see is a black box. Graf foresees the increased use of neon in the Eighties, which he feels sure will be "the decade of light." Given neon's highly energy efficient nature, it should fit well into our increasingly energy-conscious future.

Interior designer Estelle Schneider of The Schneider Group loves the sophisticated effects that are possible when neon is used in new ways. The small sign in Ayla's present shop was Schneider's idea. In designing Ayla's new space on Main Street, Schneider plans to use much more neon, not only in the window but inside the store as well. There it will be the only color in otherwise neutral surroundings.

Ann Arbor's sign ordinance was necessary to clear up a sign jumble that had gotten out of hand, Schneider feels. "At the same time, I think the ordinance was an example of overkill," she says. "Signs are meant to be seen. For that reason, styles in signs change every so often to force you to see them anew. Neon provides a way to make highly visible signs that can stand inside store windows. Good signs liven a downtown area."

Designers of storefronts in Ann Arbor must work within the confines of Ann Arbor's restrictive sign ordinance, intended to cut down on visual clutter. It prohibits all overhanging, animated, and flashing signs, even though some might generally be considered tasteful. Legislating good taste is a very tricky matter, as the councilpeople who drew up the many drafts of the controversial sign ordinance know all too well. So the ordinance simply excludes all categories of signs that have in the past usually been considered offensive. □

The first sign to hang over a sidewalk to go up in many years has just been installed at Renaissance, the classy clothing store in Tower Plaza on Maynard. The sign will be conforming because the building's deep setback provides ground floor tenants with a stretch of private sidewalk, so the sign won't hang over a public right-of-way. Roger Pothus of Renaissance is excited about his new blue neon sign, which will be very large. "I only wish we could put one twenty-six stories up on the roof and have it flash. I think neon is beautiful!" he says. The sign was made by Planet Neon, a Walled Lake firm that also made the good-looking sign at Turtle Island.

William Eddy of Ann Arbor, co-founder of Planet Neon, says, "We're right in the middle of the neon revival, and it's very strong. We do signs along with other custom work like the neon elephant that will grace the podium at the Republican National Convention. But our greatest effort is going into neon-lit furniture, like coffee tables made of acrylic, and into neon lamps. My partner and I have just returned from New York and Los Angeles, where everyone was talking about neon and looking to us to produce for them. Saks Fifth Avenue is buying our neon-lit acrylic tables for their Somerset Mall store. Our problem at the moment is to hold off and control the demand for our things until we are geared to produce enough to satisfy it. We have quite an extensive plant and have hired a number of people, though we still turn to the older benders for complicated bends."

□

At a time when our cities are coming back to life, neon seems made to order for livening up the nighttime cityscape. In the end, it is this use of neon that is going to be most visible. Toronto is already jittery with neon. Amsterdam, a preservation-minded city, sees no incongruity in the presence there of lots of neon signs, many of them animated and flashing.

The greatly increased number of restaurants and nightclubs in downtown Ann Arbor has given it a night life which in most other places would be dramatized by light. Despite the constraints of Ann Arbor's sign law, beginnings of a revival of dramatic environmental lighting are being seen here, too. The ornate brick designs on the top of Washington Square (the old Wolverine Building) are washed with fluorescent light. A new red neon sign at Jonsuzzan Hair Dimensions at 311 South Fifth Avenue burns bright on an otherwise dark block. The East Liberty Plaza shop of jeweler Matthew Hoffmann glows blue with a large new neon sign inside the window. And admirers of neon say we'll see a lot of creative uses of this low-energy, high-impact lighting in years to come. □

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PUBLIC SWIMMING SCHEDULE

City of Ann Arbor
Department of Parks and Recreation

TEMPORARY SCHEDULE - Outdoor Pools - May 24th thru June 13th

Buhr, Fuller and Veterans Pools

Adult Noon Swim 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
General Public Swim 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

REGULAR SCHEDULE - Outdoor Pools - June 14th thru September 1st

Buhr Pool, 2751 Packard Road (971-3228)
Veterans Pool, 2150 Jackson Road (761-7240)

Adult Noon Swim 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
General Public Swim 1:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.*
12:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun.*

Family and Adult Swim 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Mon. - Sun.

Fuller Pool, 1519 Fuller Road (761-2460)

**Adult Noon Swim 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
**Does Not Start Until July 28th

General Public Swim 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri.*
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun.*

*Evening Closing Time Will Be 9:00 p.m. During The Month Of July.

Mack Indoor/Outdoor Pool - June 14th thru September 1st
715 Brooks Street (994-2899)

General Public Swim 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Mon. - Sun.

FEE SCHEDULE

	Daily Admission	SEASON PASSES	
		Resident	Non-Resident
Adults	.85	21.00	30.00
Youths (17 yrs. & under)	.35	11.00	15.00
Seniors (60 yrs. & over)	.35	11.00	15.00
Families	1.25*	40.00	56.00
*(5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Daily All Pools)			

CHILDREN 3 YEARS AND UNDER ADMITTED WITHOUT CHARGE

Additional Department of Parks programs include: Age Group Competitive Swimming, Neighborhood Swim Teams and Competitive Diving. For further information on these programs call the Department of Parks at 994-2780.

CALENDAR

A selection of Ann Arbor events by our staff and contributors, with separate listings for exhibits and for music at local night spots.

TO PUBLICIZE EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR

Mail press releases to Mary Hunt, Calendar Editor, ANN ARBOR OBSERVER, 206 S. Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. PLEASE do not phone in information. With few exceptions, events must be within Ann Arbor. Always include the address and telephone of a contact person. The calendar is published a month ahead; notices for June events, for example, must arrive in May. All material received by the 15th of May will be used as space permits; material submitted later may not get in.

MUSIC AT NIGHT SPOTS

by Lee Berry

These bookings came from information available at press time. Last minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who will be playing, it's advisable to call ahead.

THE ARK, 1421 Hill, 761-1451.

One of the warmest, friendliest rooms in Ann Arbor to witness live music. Mainly folk music, although the term is broadly defined. MAY 7: **Backwoods String Band**. Their Ann Arbor debut. Includes former members of the Highwood String Band, who've played the Ark for years, and of the Any Old Time String Band from the West Coast. MAY 9-10: **Joel Mabus**. Master picker, plucker and fiddler. With special guests the New Nash Ramblers with Cheryl Dawdy. MAY 15: **Alice Gerrard & the Harmony Sisters**. Alice has performed with Hazel Dickens and Mike Seeger, among others. Has four LPs out on Rounder Records. MAY 16-17: **Lou Killen**. Authentic English folk tunes performed on the concertina, a small accordion-like instrument invented in the 19th century by Charles Wheatstone, who also invented the harmonica. MAY 23-24: Closed for Memorial Day. MAY 30-31: **Gemini**. As the name implies, Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits are twin brothers. Folk music from Israel, the British Isles and their native Hungary. Performed on guitars, mandolin, violin, bones and other instruments. **ALL WEDNESDAYS** (except May 7): Hoot night. Open mike for aspiring performers.

THE BLIND PIG, 208 S. First, 994-4780.

Seating at the Pig is extremely limited, so it's advisable to get in before 9PM on weekends. MAY 2-3: **Rebirth**. Features saxophonist Wendell Harrison and pianist Harold McKinney. Ragtime to bop to cool to contemporary. MAY 9-10: **Dick Siegel & His Ministers of Melody**. Even Dick's most ardent fans were delighted by the tremendous response he received opening for David Bromberg in April. New LP delayed by yet another artwork change. MAY 16: **Sippie Wallace**. See Events. MAY 17: **Urbations**. Roots rock'n'roll performed by jazz musicians. Depends on your sense of humor. MAY 23-24: **Blind John Davis**. Chicago blues pianist with trio. MAY 30-31: **McDuff**. Three-piece folkish group with a startling female vocalist. **EVERY MONDAY**: **Boogie Woogie Red**. Barrelhouse piano & vocals keeping the blues alive. When he's hot, he sizzles.

THE COUNT OF ANTIPASTO, 1140 S. University, 668-8411.

MAY 3: **Phil Spradlin**. One of the front-men of the now-defunct Masquerade, Phil performs solo for this engagement. Guitar, pop vocals. MAY 9-10: **Section E**. Further deviating from the Count's high-energy format, a trumpet-led jazz

quintet featuring Terry Silvers on bass. MAY 16-17: To be announced. MAY 23-24: **Joe Summers Trio**. See Earle. MAY 30-31: **Semblance**. Five-piece fusion group that's equally convincing whether performing rock or bebop.

DEL RIO, 122 W. Washington, 761-2530. **EVERY SUNDAY**: Dinnertime jazz, usually quartets and quintets and reliably enjoyable. From 5:30-8:30. Get there early.

THE EARLE, 121 W. Washington, 994-0211.

The music offerings have lightened from horned groups to the softer, more accessible sounds of jazz trios and solo piano. Second and third sets tend to be more substantial than the opening cocktail set. MAY 3: **Kevin O'Connell Trio**. A strong composer as well as player, Kevin blends electronic keyboards unobtrusively with a rather traditional, mainstream sound. Ned Mann on the bass and Joey Perets on drums. MAY 9-10: **Gary Haverkate Trio**. Gary has worked with Sam Sanders, Howard White, Ron Brooks and others. Draws his selections from throughout the history of jazz. MAY 16-17: **Howard White Trio**. Howard and drummer Dave Koether, both from Melodioso, keep their jazz chops sharp with pianist Andy Sacks. MAY 23-24: **Misbehavin'**. Three female vocalists, including Patty O'Connor from Footloose, sing swing tunes from the forties to the present. MAY 30-31: **Joe Summers Trio**. Leader Summers formerly played second guitar with Chet Atkins in Nashville, while bassist David Thomas has toured with such luminaries as Slide Hampton and Dexter Gordon. Frequently joined by saxophonist Ed Sugar.

MR. FLOOD'S PARTY, 120 W. Liberty, 994-5940.

MAY 3: **5 Guys Named Moe**. Bluegrass quintet from the Buckeye State. Features quick-pickin' Rick Levin on guitar, banjo, etc. MAY 4: **Trees**. Rich vocal harmonies similar at times to New York's Roches. Backed by a solid flute-piano-bass-drums quartet. MAY 6: **Neil Woodward**. MAY 7: **Andy Boller & Friends**. R&B, rock and ballads (some original) from Steve Newhouse's keyboard man. Still developing. MAY 8: **Arbor Grass**. Contemporary bluegrass. MAY 9-10: **Stoney Creek**. Very traditional bluegrass, heavy on the fiddle. MAY 11: **Sailcatz**. See Rick's. MAY 12-13: To be announced. MAY 14: **Steve Newhouse**. See Events May 4. May 15: **A2 Quartet**. Creative electric jazz that keeps moving. Miles Davis to Weather Report to originals. MAY 16-17: **Trees**. See above. MAY 18: **Vantage Point**. See Events-May 4. MAY 19: **Steve Newhouse**. See above. MAY 20: **Don Tapert**. Solo appearance by the composer half of the Tapert-Sparling Band. MAY 22: **Andy Boller & Friends**. See above. MAY 23-24: **Steve Newhouse & the Nukeabilities**. See above. MAY 25: **Vantage Point**. See above. MAY 26: To be announced. MAY 27: **Trees**. See above. MAY 28: **Urbations**. See Blind Pig. MAY 29-31: **Dick Siegel & his Ministers of Melody**. See Blind Pig.

NEW OLD BRICK, 109 1/2 N. Main, 761-5451.

Located in a spacious loft above the Star Bar, the Brick possesses an atmosphere conducive to everything from modern dance to reggae to rock'n'roll to new jazz. Frequently serves as a gallery for area artists by day. MAY 3: **Men Working**. Ann Arbor's five-man contact improvisation group. Dance, theater and music. MAY 9: **The Same Band**. Featuring ex-Destroy All Monsters Ben and Larry Miller. Ecstatically received in their debut performance in April. One of the few bands in town striving to create something new. Special guests: Urbations. See Flood's. MAY 17: **Mirage and Men Working**. Collaboration between a men's group and a women's group. MAY 18: **Mirage Women's Dance Collective**. An evening of recently choreographed works. MAY 24: **Meleodioso**. Salsa, calypso, reggae, and other Latin-inspired rhythms. Current band is considered by many to be the best version that leader Howard White has come up with yet. MAY 31: **Strata Nova**. Double-fisted fusion jazz. It's difficult to believe that they are only now performing their

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Cover for the bar \$1.00
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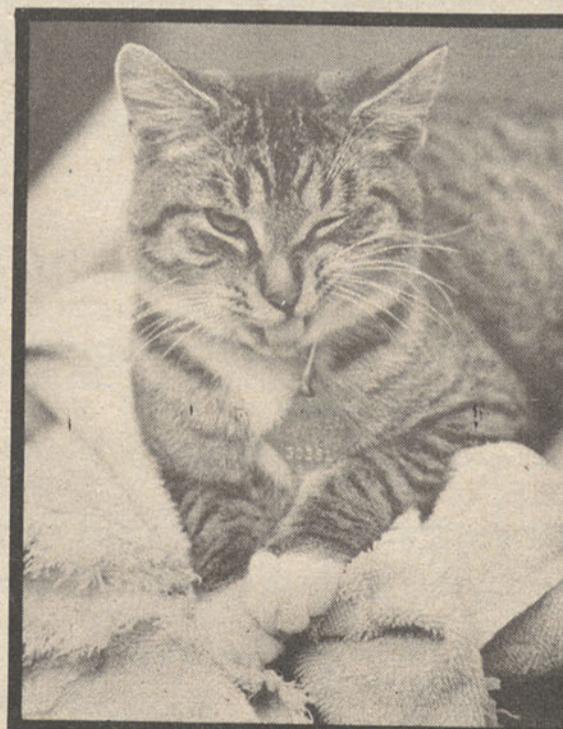


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Ann Arbor Zonta Club presents "Information for Women Today"

Breakfast meeting - 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Concluding FINANCIAL PLANNING Series

May 7: Karen Knowles - Investment Officer, Ann Arbor Trust
"Investing in an Inflationary Environment"

Beginning Second Series: THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN MONEY - PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

May 21: Marie Hartwig - Professor (Ret.), Dept. of Physical Education, Univ. of Michigan
"Women and Fitness (What to Do; Where to Go)"

June 4: Ann Hinton - Feminist Psychologist
"What You Don't Know Can Hurt You"

Phone: 668-8275 • at the Campus Inn • Cost: \$3.50 each

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CANOE SPORT

CALENDAR /continued

first Ann Arbor date. WDET jazz disc jockey Leonard King on drums.

RICK'S AMERICAN CAFE, 611 Church, 996-2747.

Come-as-you-are gathering place with dance floor, pool and game rooms. Student-dominated on weekends, far less so during the week. **MAY 2: Emerald City.** A talented young group whose repertoire consists entirely of dance music, from a pop point of view. You'll either love or hate Lindsay Rundel's vocals. **MAY 3: Steve Newhouse & the Nukeabilities.** See Events-May 4. **MAY 4: Joe Summers Trio.** See Earle. **MAY 5: Sailcatz.** One of the brightest new bands to emerge in a while. Stresses soulful, bluesy rock in the Little Feat-Allman Brothers vein. **MAY 6: Emerald City.** See above. **MAY 7: Catfish Hodge.** See Events. **MAY 8: Blue Front Persuaders.** See Star Bar. **MAY 9-11: Vantage Point.** Special Mother's Day Show. See Events. **MAY 12: Sailcatz.** See above. **MAY 13: Eclipse Jazz Open Jam Session.** Scales down from every other Tuesday to the second Tuesday of each month. Rhythm section provided, soloists — and spectators — invited. David Swain calls tunes and directs traffic onstage. **MAY 14-15:** To be announced. **MAY 16-17: Cartunes.** A four-piece rock'n'rollin' Detroit band featuring an outstanding lead guitarist. They sometimes take themselves a little too seriously. **MAY 19: Salt Creek.** If you like Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels and/or beer, this one should fill the bill. Their first Ann Arbor appearance with new pedal steel player. **MAY 20: Stuart Mitchell.** Singer of comical songs and teller of musical tales. Plays a mean guitar, too, when he sets his mind to it. **MAY 21-22: Newt & the Salamanders.** Polished eight-piece R&B outfit from Traverse City. Plays some serious funk too. **MAY 23-24: Prismatic Band.** Second LP, a live one, just recorded. **MAY 26: Rockabilly Cats.** Old-fashioned pre-rock that's developing a new wave audience. Features Blue Front Persuaders' piano man 'Jailbird' Wethy. **MAY 27: Herbal Experience.** Bona fide Jamaican reggae with a Detroit jagged edge. See Events-May 4. **MAY 28: Albert Collins.** See Events. **MAY 29: Semblance.** See the Count of Antipasto. **MAY 30-31: Blue Front Persuaders.** See Star Bar.

SECOND CHANCE, 516 E. Liberty, 994-5350.

MAY 1-4: Steve Nardella Band. Authentic roots rock'n'roll. Just back from a successful East Coast tour. Sources in D.C. say he tipped the whole town on its ear. **MAY 5: Nikki & the Corvettes.** Spirited imitation 1962 pop. Recalls Shelley Fabares, the Shangri-La's, etc. **MAY 6: Flirt.** Quite the opposite extreme of current rock in the area from the previous night. Tough, nasty, teeth-clenched rock'n'roll. Guitarist is named Skid Marx. **MAY 7-11: Mariner.** Top-40 band touted by many as the best in southeastern Michigan. **MAY 12: Cartunes.** See Rick's. **MAY 13: Destroy All Monsters.** Front singer Niagra is a show in herself. Since the departure of the Miller brothers, now with the Same Band, D.A.M. seems to be enjoying greater popularity in New York and London than in Ann Arbor. **MAY 14-18: Magazine.** Top-40 covers and originals. Includes ex-Masquerade members Dave Morgan and Alan Rutledge. **MAY 19:** To be announced. **MAY 22-24: Cub Koda & the Points.** Hard-driving, album-oriented radio rock. **MAY 25: The Look.** Power pop a la Romantics. **MAY 26: The Sillies.** Detroit new wavers in their first headlining gig at the Chance. **MAY 27:** To be announced. **MAY 28-31: Toby Redd.** Nugentian heavy-metal rock.

STAR BAR, 109 N. Main, 769-0109.

MAY 3: Honey Boy. Contemporary rock'n'roll. Features Gary Churchill on saxophone. **MAY 6: Detroit Puppets.** New wave. **MAY 8: Mike Katon Band.** Very loud, very good J. Geils-styled rock. **MAY 9-10: Blue Front Persuaders.** In the process of a personnel switch whereby bassist Todd Perkins and harmonicist/vocalist Jimmy Purcell are exiting. New version may feature a second sax or, possibly, a trombone. Their r&b/swing/blues direction will continue. **MAY 15: The Same Band.** See New Old Brick. **MAY 16-17:** To be announced. **MAY 20: Nikki & the Corvettes.** See Second Chance. **MAY 22: Reverb.** **MAY 23-24: Dick Siegel and His Ministers of Melody.** See Blind Pig. **MAY 29-31: Melodioso.** See New Old Brick. **EVERY WEDNESDAY:** Reggae Dance Party. Your hosts

Michael Kremen and Brian Tomsic treat your mind and body to the latest and the greatest in reggae and new wave records.

EVENTS

3 SATURDAY

"Community Showcase" Michigan Theatre benefit

Six and a half hours of continuous performance to help the old movie palace remain as a community performing arts center. Schedule: 10 AM, The Good Time Players. 10:30 AM, Dance Art Studio. 11 AM, Junior Chamber Players. 11:30 AM, Young Peoples Theatre. Noon, Comic Opera Guild. 12:30 PM, Sterling Chamber Players. 1 PM, Troupe Ta Amullat Fi Buhayrit Al. 1:30 PM, Mirage. 2 PM, Ann Arbor Recorder Society. 2:30 PM, Ann Arbor Civic Ballet. 3 PM, Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra. 3:30 PM, Dance Theatre. 2, 4 PM, Cantata Singers.

Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty. Adults \$2. Children \$1. 668-8480.

Networks APA: May Day Political Arts Festival

Art with a political twist by a southeastern Michigan artists' alliance dedicated to greater political power for workers, minorities and the elderly. (APA — Artists for Political Action) 11 AM-2 PM. Liberty Plaza (Liberty at South Division). Free.

North Central Regional Chili Cook-Off

Cooking as entertainment. Chefs from eleven north central states. Costumes, performances by "support teams" who cheer their entrants. Prizes for showmanship and chili. Chili, 25¢. Sandwiches, beer, wine, coffee, pop. Benefits Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

11 AM-4:30 PM. Saline Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Adults \$1. Children with parents free. 971-2800.

"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" — Junior Theatre Company

Secondary school students in C.S. Lewis's children's classic.

1:30 and 3:30 PM. Pioneer High School Little Theatre. Children \$1 or \$.75 in groups of 10 or more. Adults \$2. 994-2326.

Networks APA: May Day Political Arts Festival

Teatro La Palomia, a Latino group from Detroit, will perform "Bernabe" by Luis Valdes. Radical Arts Troupe presents two one-act plays by Edward Bond.

7:30 PM, Residential College Theater, East Quad. \$3.50. 663-0729.

"Michigan Theatre Gala"

Nostalgic concert-dance benefit for Michigan Theatre. Ohioan Dennis James solos on the theater organ and accompanies Buster Keaton short. Songs of the Thirties and Forties by Andrews Sisters-type trio, Misbehavin'. Big jazz band music of the 20's and 30's by Detroit's Cotton Pickers played for dancing on the Michigan's big stage. Appetizers, refreshments.

8 PM. Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty. Tickets at box office. \$10. 668-8480.

"A Man for All Seasons" — St. Andrews Players

Robert Bolt's drama about Sir Thomas More, Henry VIII's friend and antagonist.

8 PM. St. Andrew's Church, 306 N. Division. \$3. Reservations 663-0518.

4 SUNDAY

Bike-a-thon — Ecology Center

Sponsored cyclists ride 11-mile city route or 28 miles in the county to raise funds for the Ecology Center. Kickoff of "8 Great Days in May" Bike Week.



Noon-5 PM. Sponsor sheets at Ecology Center, City Hall, Public Library, Food co-ops, sporting goods stores. 761-3186. Starting from Community High parking lot.

Spring Festival and Open House at Cobblestone Farm

Tours of 1840's farmhouse, plowing demonstration, quilting, Maypole dancing by Girl Scouts, contra-dancing by Cobblestone Country Dancers, antique dolls and miniature scenes, potted and dried herb display, basket weaving, porcelain dollmaking, old-time farm equipment, gift shop.

Noon-5 PM. 2781 Packard at Buhr Park. Donation. 662-1671.

"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" — Junior Theatre Company

1:30 and 3:30 PM. See 3 Saturday.

Rock 'n Roll Party: Michigan Theatre benefit

Capping off "Meet the Michigan" weekend will be a four-band extravaganza, three of which have received international acclaim. Peter "Madcat" Ruth toured with Two Generations of Brubeck years ago and recently opened for the current Brubeck group at Hill Auditorium. As a solo performer in more recent years, he has dazzled audiences with his harmonica playing, considered by many to be among the world's finest. Steve Newhouse & Company have demonstrated their high-energy potential weekend after weekend over the past two years. Playing a mixture of country-ish originals and rock'n'roll standards, Newhouse has been known to solo on his guitar while lying in the middle of Liberty St. outside Mr. Flood's. Horatio Bennett of Horatio's Herbal Experience leads and vocalizes for what is probably the only bona fide Kingston, Jamaica via Detroit reggae bands in existence. Vantage Point has received considerable attention from trips to European jazz festivals. The current group, temporarily without a guitar, returns to its early blues roots, led by Don Savoie-Blue's big Hammond B-3 sound. Musicians and organizers have donated their time to this worthwhile project, and everyone who has enjoyed the theatre is encouraged to purchase tickets, even if unable to attend.

8 PM. Michigan Theater. Tickets \$4 advance/ \$5 at door. Available at Schoolkids Records, both Discount Records, Aura Sound and the Where House. Call 995-9066.

"A Man for All Seasons" — St. Andrew's Players

See 3 Saturday.

5 MONDAY

Ride-to-Work — Ann Arbor Bicycle League

Group 1 headed by Mayor Lou Belcher to meet in Zion Lutheran Church on Liberty near Virginia. Group 2 headed by City Administrator Terry Sprenkel to meet at Kroger's on Broadway. Group 3 headed by U-M President H. Shapiro to meet in front of the President's house. All groups leave at 7:40 AM and bike to City Hall.

Call Ann Hunt 761-1147 for further information.

Japanese Flower Arranging demonstration

Thomas Thompson, Master of the Ikenobo School of flower arranging.

7:30 PM. Chrysler Center Auditorium, North Campus next to the Commons. \$3.

"I'm Stuck on Cacti"

Ann Arbor Cactus and Succulent Society

Entertaining TV personality and U-M botany professor Peter Kaufman shares pointers.

8 PM. Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road. Free.

Bicycle commuters' repairs clinic

A one-day blitz to get everyone's bike in top shape. Repairs and tips.

7:30 PM. Community High School. Free. 994-2814.

Running Clinic: Training and racing in the heat

Summary of over 50 recent research reports on running in summer.

8 PM. The Athlete's Shop, 309 S. State. \$1.

6 TUESDAY

Bicycle Film Festival

"Breaking Away" they're not, but for biking information check out short films on safety, racing and touring.

7:30 PM. Ann Arbor Public Library.

7 WEDNESDAY

"Investing in an Inflationary Economy" — Zonta Club breakfast

Financial planning talk for women by Karen

UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES



INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS 1980-1981

New brochure with complete information available upon request; series orders now being accepted. Contact University Musical Society, Burton Tower, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109. Phone (313) 665-3717. Performances are on the main campus of The University of Michigan. Ample concert parking.

Summer Fare Series

The Borodin Trio	Wed. July 9
John Browning, Pianist	Mon. July 14
Byron Janis, Pianist	Mon. July 21
Grant Johannesen, Pianist	Mon. July 28
Northwood Symphonette & Judy Manos, Vocalist	Mon. Aug. 4

Choral Union Series

Toronto Symphony Orchestra/Andrew Davis	Tues. Oct. 21
San Francisco Symphony Orchestra	
Edo de Waart	Sat. Oct. 25
Tokyo Philharmonic/Tadaeiko Odaka	Thurs. Nov. 6
Martti Talvela, Bass	Sun. Nov. 16
Los Angeles Philharmonic/Carlo Maria Giulini	Sun. Nov. 23
Pinchas Zukerman, Violinist & Violist	Tues. Jan. 27
Oxana Yablonskaya, Pianist	Sat. Feb. 7
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra/André Previn	Thurs. Mar. 19
Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra/Kurt Mazur	Sun. Mar. 29
Mstislav Rostropovich, Cellist	Sun. Apr. 12

Chamber Arts Series

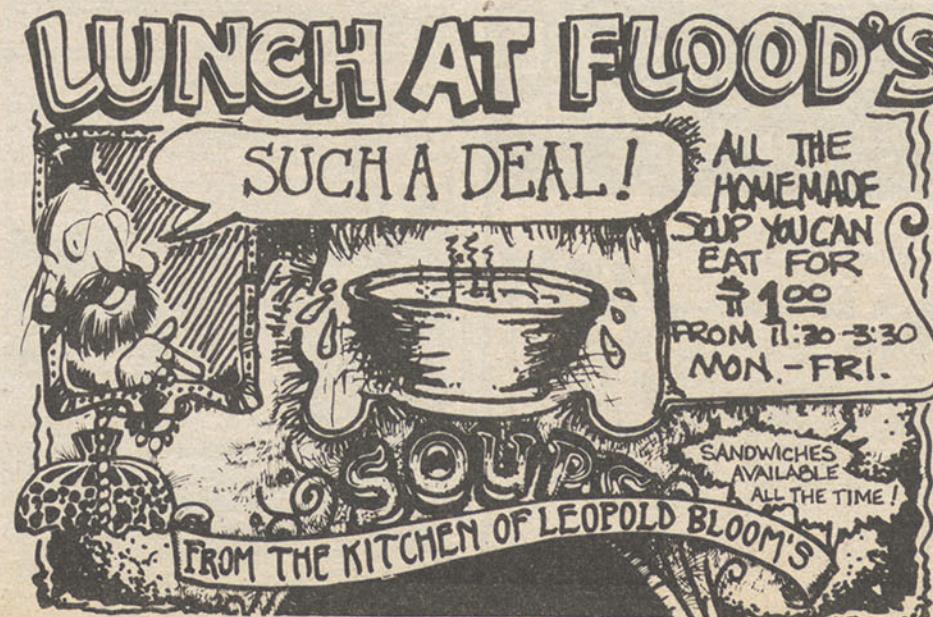
Smithsonian Chamber Ensemble	Tues. Oct. 14
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields	Mon. Nov. 3
Kenneth Gilbert, Harpsichordist	Sat. Nov. 15
Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio	Thurs. Nov. 20
Music from Marlboro	Thurs. Jan. 29
Guarneri String Quartet	Thurs. Feb. 19
New York Chamber Soloists	Sun. Mar. 15
Guarneri String Quartet with David Shifrin, Clarinetist; Gyorgy Sandor, Pianist	Mon. Apr. 20

Debut & Encore Series

Anthony di Bonaventura, Pianist	Sat. Oct. 18
Murray Perahia, Pianist	Thurs. Nov. 13
Horacio Gutierrez, Pianist	Wed. Jan. 14
Walter Berry, Baritone	Sat. Mar. 7

Choice Series

Goldovsky Opera Company	Mon. & Tues. Oct. 6 & 7
Rossini's <i>Barber of Seville</i> (in English)	
Ballet Folklorico Mexicano	Thurs. Oct. 9
Lar Lubovitch Dance Company	Tues. & Wed. Oct. 28 & 29
The Feld Ballet	Mon.-Wed. Nov. 17-19
Caribbean Carnival of Trinidad	Fri. Nov. 21
New Swingle Singers	Fri. Dec. 12
Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre	Thurs.-Sat. Dec. 18-20
Tchaikovsky's <i>Nutcracker</i> Ballet	
Royal Ballet of Flanders	Wed. & Thurs. Mar. 4 & 5
Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre	Mon.-Wed. Mar. 9-11
Western Opera Theater	Thurs. Apr. 23
Donizetti's <i>Elixir of Love</i> (in English)	



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COD	6.44
HADDOCK	6.73
SMELT	6.01
PERCH	6.30

Mon - Sat 12:00 - 9:00
Sunday 5:00 - 9:00

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994-3151

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...with SAUSAGE	2.84

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... BASIL	2.12

...with SAUSAGE	2.84
-----------------	------

* spaghetti dinners include -- bread sticks & choice of soup
cole slaw

"SANDWICHES"

FISH	1.93
ITALIAN SAUSAGE	2.25
CHICKEN SALAD	2.12
CHEESE & SPROUTS	1.83
ZUCCHINI	
EGGPLANT	2.12

*all sandwiches include one of the following.....
mostaccioli salad
soup
cole slaw

"SIDES"

ONION RINGS	1.25
ZUCCHINI SPEARS	1.25
EGGPLANT	1.25
FRENCH FRIES	.86
..... large	1.05
COLE SLAW	.43 1.05
MOSTACCIOLI	.43 1.05
SOUP	bowl pt.
Pasta E Fagioli	.82 1.05

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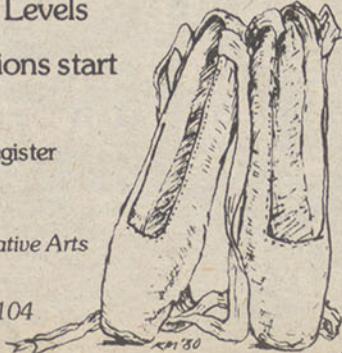
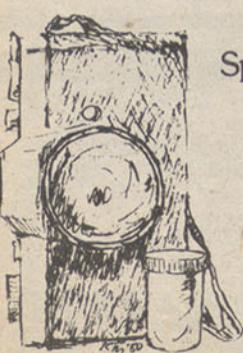
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ARTWORLDS Center for Creative Arts
213 South Main St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
994-8400



CALENDAR /continued

Knowles, investment officer at Ann Arbor Trust.

7:30-9 AM. Campus Inn. \$3.50 includes breakfast. 668-8275.

Rock climbing workshop

Discussion of the basics, followed by outdoor practicum May 17 with limited enrollment of 8. 7 PM. Black Elk Supply, 120 E. Washington. Free. 662-3965.

REO Speedwagon in concert

Reportedly tremendous live performers, REO had a monster hit with "Riding the Storm Out" many years ago. Though their legion of fans continues to grow, one has to wonder what their appeal is. Even among ultra-loud megabuck corporate rock bands, their sound seems nondescript. REO, by the way, stands for Ransom E. Olds, the inventor of the fire engine. 8 PM. Crisler Arena. Tickets \$8 & \$9 at Michigan Union Box Office, Where House Records, Huckleberry Party Store and by mail order. Call 763-2071.

Catfish Hodge Band

Having released more than a half-dozen LPs on almost that many labels, Catfish knows by heart the advantages of being a small-label act. Like getting your records into the stores that discriminating customers frequent and onto the playlists of the radio stations that they support. "With a big label you get a little prestige," he explained last January, "but it doesn't mean a whole lot when the record is deleted six months later." Hodge works in a self-defined genre that mixes blues, Detroit R&B and good old-time rock'n'roll. "I may be in Washington now, but the rawness is still there. That's the Motor City... the electricity of Detroit."

9:30 PM. Rick's American Cafe. Tickets \$2.50. Call 996-2747.

8 THURSDAY

"A Place to Be Me": Albion Productions

A musical about growing up, sponsored by the Young People's Theater. Carnival setting permits acrobatics, contemporary dance pieces, and a two-headed tap dancer. For third-graders to adults.

4:30 and 7:30 PM. Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Ticket info: 996-3888.

Childbirth Film Festival: Ann Arbor Advocates for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth

Movies on home births, children at birth, and more at the second annual festival.

7:30 PM. Wesley Foundation Lounge, 602 E. Huron. Donation. 668-7032.

9 FRIDAY

Childbirth Film Festival

See 8 Thursday.

Picnic Supper — Ann Arbor Bicycle League

For people who bike or are contemplating starting.

Meet at Liberty and Division at 5:30 PM or go directly to Island Park at 6 PM. Coffee provided. 761-1147.

10 SATURDAY

Humane Society Dog Walkathon

Fund-raiser for the Humane Society of Huron Valley. Walk with your dog or a human friend. Get sponsors to pay — maybe a quarter a mile. 6-mile loop starts at Society on Cherry Hill Road.

9 AM-5 PM. Humane Society Shelter, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Call 662-5585 for sponsor sheets.

"The Mahamudra Lineage": lectures

Lectures on the history and philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism by the abbot of Sikkim's Rumtek monastery and a student of the Dalai Lama.

9 AM-6 PM. 734 Fountain. \$15. 769-2454.

"Amphibians of Park Lyndon": nature walk

Lyndon Township's glaciated terrain, with its swamps, bogs, ponds, and streams, provides an ideal habitat for a dozen species of amphibians. WCPARC's Park Lyndon is a sanctuary for most of these species. On this walk we will try to see them in their natural surroundings

and observe specimens previously caught by the park naturalist. Come prepared to wade if necessary, and bring a camera.

10 AM. Park Lyndon, N. Territorial 1 mi. east of M-52. Car pool leaves Crisler Arena at 9:15 sharp, or meet at South Lyndon parking lot.

Bike Week Swap Shop

Trade bike parts and accessories.

10 AM-2 PM. Community High School park-lot.

Open House — Friends Lake Community

Wildflowers, woods, canoes, rowboats, and sailboats — all available to members of this cooperative lakefront community. Ann Arbor Society of Friends will have information about membership in their cooperative lake community.

1-5 PM. Friends Lake Community, (M-52 Chelsea exit, left on Waterloo Road, right on Oak Ridge to entrance gate on left). Free. 769-0046.

Bicycle Parade

Participants will include the Unicycle Club, the Wheelmen (with old high-wheeler bikes), and a bicycle band whose members play musical instruments while riding. Sponsored by AA Bicycle League and AA Tomorrow.

Parade starting at 2 PM Liberty and Maynard. See the bicycle band make music as they ride. Decorate your own bike and come in costume. Prizes!

Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra with baritone Allan Glassman

Glassman, a rising operatic star who recently signed with the Met, sings Mahler's "Five Ruckert Songs" and Copland's "Five Old American Songs." Also: Handel's "Concerto for Double Orchestra" and Prokofiev's "Classical" symphony. Food, wine, and chamber music in the lobby during the intermission add to the ambience.

8:45 PM. Michigan Theatre (Liberty at Maynard), all seats reserved. \$6. Students and seniors, \$3. 996-0066.

11 SUNDAY

Motor City Theater Organ Society Open House

Guest organist Dave Brewer in an informal concert theater organ. A nostalgic treat.

10 AM. Michigan Theater. Donations appreciated.

Tour of Sheriff's Department Facility — Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department

In observance of National Police Week.

1-4 PM. 2201 Hogback Road. Free. 971-8400 ext. 400.

Downtown Walking Tours: Ann Arbor Historic District Commission

Small groups led by trained guides will check out historical and architectural highlights and examples of successful adaptive use such as the Oddfellows' Hall, recently purchased by Moveable Feast. 2-2 1/2 hour walk.

1 PM Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$50 (includes tour, map, refreshments). 996-3008.



Bike Week: Bike Tours of Historic Ann Arbor

Two-hour, eight-and-a-half mile tour led by trained guides. Small groups will loop through the Old Fourth Ward, Lower Town, Old West Side, downtown, and Washtenaw-Hill area. Cobblestone Farm an optional extra loop.

2 PM. Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Small fee for map and refreshments. 995-3008.

Intrada Wind Quintet: Chamber Music Concert

Fans say this local group combines fun with sensitivity and professionalism. Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, french horn in works by Danzi, Jansons, and Barber.

4 PM. First Congregational Church, 608 E. William. \$3 donation.

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"Royal Wedding": Michigan Theatre Great Movie Series
7:30 PM/organ overture. 8 PM/ film. Michigan Theatre, Liberty at Maynard. \$2.
Ann Arbor Recorder Society concert
A concert in historic Kemp House in honor of National Historic Preservation Week.
8 PM. Free admission and refreshments. 996-3008.

12 MONDAY

Running Clinic: Inside the long-distance runner
What happens inside the body under the stress of running.
8 PM. The Athlete's Shop, 309 S. State. \$1.
"Karma and Reincarnation" — lecture
The abbot of Rumtek Monastery in Tibet on Buddhist principles of death and rebirth.
8 PM. Michigan League Library, 227 South Ingalls. Free. 769-2454.

13 TUESDAY

"Writing Fiction for the Mass Market": Booked for Lunch
Gilbert Cross, author of "The Prakov Memoranda" and EMU English professor, tells how it's done.
12:10 PM. Ann Arbor Public Library meeting room. Free.

14 WEDNESDAY

Hypothermia and safety in outdoor camping
What to do if something goes wrong on a trip into the wilds. (Hypothermia is subnormal body temperature.)
7 PM. Black Elk Supply, 120 E. Washington. Free. 662-3965.

15 THURSDAY

"The Nutrition Shakedown" — Turner Geriatric Clinic panel
The latest information about vitamins, salt, fats, sugar, food co-ops, community bakeries, and raising your own food.
1-3:30 PM. Turner Geriatric Clinic, 1010 Wall. Free. 764-6831.
Children's Community School — informational presentation
Parents and staff describe their non-graded, open-style elementary school with individualized curriculum and activity-oriented learning, kindergarten through sixth grade.
4-5 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM. Michigan League, 227 South Ingalls, Room 3A. Free. 663-4392.

16 FRIDAY

Dexter Historical Society House Tour
Five houses, including John and Sandy Hansen's Greek Revival home, and the society's museum.
10 AM-4PM and 6-10 PM. Call Rose VanAken, 426-4958, for ticket information. Luncheon by reservation.
"Life with Father": Pioneer High Theater Guild
Comedy favorite based on Clarence Day's classic stories about the opinionated head of a turn-of-the-century family.
8 PM. Pioneer High Little Theater.

Sippie Wallace

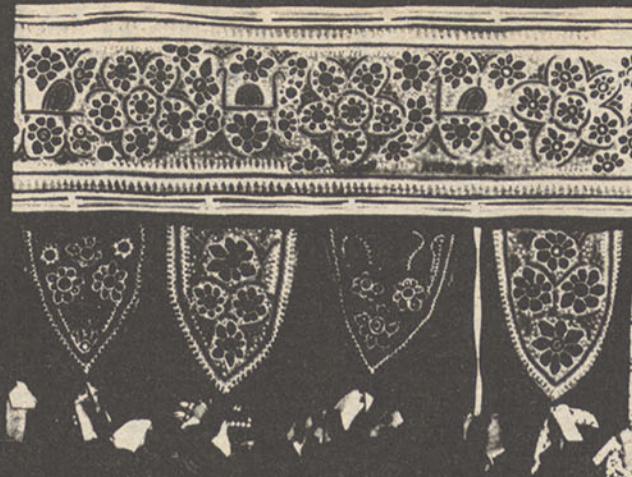
Now in her early eighties, Sippie has been performing professionally for almost seventy years. Bonnie Raitt's acknowledged debt to Sippie for both style and inspiration has probably contributed to the rather sudden popularity resurgence she's currently enjoying. There are very few performers today who can match Sippie for either talent or enthusiasm. You'll never forgive yourself if you miss her.
9:30 PM & 12 Midnight. Blind Pig. 208 S. First. Tickets \$3 at the door.

Ann Arbor historical slide show

Continuous presentation by Wystan Stevens during Midnight Madness.
Civic Theater building (formerly the Elks), 338 S. Main. Free. 996-3008.

17 SATURDAY

Tree Clinic
City Forester Bill Lawrence answers questions on sick trees and shrubs. Take ailing leaves and twigs for diagnosis.



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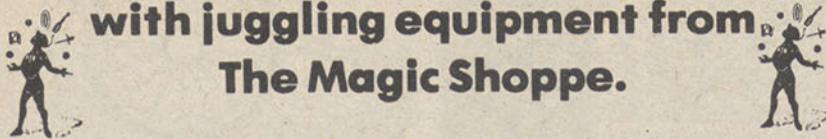
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CALENDAR /continued

10 AM-2 PM. Northside Park (Taylor and Pontiac Trail).

Downtown Walking Tours — Ann Arbor Historic District Commission

1 PM. See 11 Sunday.

"Rites of Spring" party

Ibrahim Farrah and Phaedra, New York dancers, join Suheyla and Troupe Ta'amullat in an evening of Middle Eastern dance and music. 8 PM, Michigan Union Ballroom. Tickets \$7. 665-0902.

Second City

In the belief that several heads are better than one, Second City develops most of its material in performance situations. The actors and actresses improvise on ideas suggested by the audience, by the director or themselves. Though the basis of the material is improvisational, rehearsals are as thorough as for a "legitimate" play. Without sets, employing only a few hand props and with six hats on the costume shelf, they create an entire world of satire. Finally, if you haven't heard, Aykroyd, Belushi, Radner, etc. are Second City alums.

8 PM. Michigan Theater. Tickets at Michigan Theater Box Office. Schoolkids' Records and all Hudson's & CTC ticket outlets. 995-9066.

"Life with Father" — Pioneer High Theater Guild

See 16 Friday.

18 SUNDAY

Antiques Market

275 dealers. Quality antiques and collectibles guaranteed for authenticity.

8 AM-4 PM. (Early birds welcome after 5 AM), 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$1.

"Spring Recess... A Play Fest For All Ages"

"New Games" — cooperative play-activities for all ages including parachute games, face-painting, lap-sitting, soccer with a six-foot cageball, music, drama, clowns.

1 PM til dusk. Elbel Field, S. Division at Hoover. 763-4560.

Goodtime Players: Ann Arbor Recreation Department

Professional adult troupe in two shows. "The Little Prince" and "Adam and Eve" at 1 PM. "The Cop and the Anthem" and "The Goodtime Song & Dance Team" at 3 PM.

1 and 3 PM. Eberbach Cultural Arts Building, 1220 S. Forest. \$2.50, children \$2. 994-2326.

Art Auction: Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor

Auction of 150 lithographs, etchings, wood-cuts, serigraphs, paintings and water colors by numerous masters of three centuries. \$25 and up. Door prize, refreshments, babysitting.

1 PM, preview. 2 PM, auction. Hillel Hall, 1429 Hill. \$1 donation. 973-2593.

Dance Fair: Ann Arbor Recreation Department

Young people and adults from folk, modern, and other dance classes. Modern dance by staff members Eileen Greenbain and Christopher Watson.

2:30 PM. Tappan Intermediate School, 2251

E. Stadium Blvd. \$7.50; children \$5.00. 994-2326.

"Art, Science, and Ethics in the World of Work"
Lecture by Dietrich V. Asten of the Rudolf Steiner Institute.

3 PM. Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free.

19 MONDAY

"The History of Hawaii as told through Stamps" — Ann Arbor Stamp Club.

Slide show, stamp swapping, and business meeting.

7:30 PM. 310 S. Ashley. 761-5859.

Running Clinic: Strength training for running

The pros and cons of weight training, comparing isometric and isotonic contraction with the Nautilus, Universal and Exergen systems with free weights.

8 PM. The Athlete's Shop, 309 S. State. \$1.



20 TUESDAY

"Cobblestone Farm Retrospective"

Six years of community restoration and plans for the future reviewed by Cobblestone Farm historian Hodges. Annual meeting of Cobblestone Farm Association.

8 PM. Allen School, 2560 Towner Blvd. Free. 662-1671.

21 WEDNESDAY

"Women and Fitness": Zonta Club breakfast

Talk by Marie Hartwig, retired U-M professor of physical education.

7:30-9 AM. Campus Inn. \$3.50 includes breakfast. 668-8275.

Foods and recipes for backpacking and canoeing

Creative alternatives to freeze-dried food.

7 PM. Black Elk Supply, 120 E. Washington

22 THURSDAY

Dance Theatre Studio: open house

Lecture-demonstration of classwork and completed dance by ballet students and instructor Laura McCarthy.

7:30 PM. Dance Theatre Studio, 711 N. University, above Moe's Sport Shop. Free. 995-4242.



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24 SATURDAY

7th Annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Run: Ann Arbor Track Club

3500 runners in seven and fifteen mile runs from Huron River Drive at N. Maple and Dexter High School. Destination: Huron High School. The year's big running event. All entrants receive tee-shirts with run logo.

8:15 AM, seven mile run starts. 8:30 AM for fifteen mile run. \$6 entry fee. Entry forms at Ann Arbor Bank and Trust branches and most sporting goods stores. 662-7666. Registration deadline May 17!

"Life in a beech-maple forest": nature walk

The northwest corner of Park Lyndon is part of a chain of swamps, forests, and marshes which runs from Island Lake to South Lake in Lyndon Township. The moister, more humus-y soils are ideal for the lush fern, wild-flower, and tree growth associated with beeches and maples. Bring binoculars, because this dense vegetation provides excellent cover for migrating birds. Since beech-maple woods are often wet, bring appropriate footwear.

10 AM. Park Lyndon, N. Territorial 1 mi. east of M-52. Car pool leaves Crisler Arena at 9:15 sharp, or meet at South Lyndon parking lot.

27 MONDAY

Running clinic: training and racing at high altitudes

Research findings on adaptation to altitude. 8 PM. The Athlete's Shop, 309 S. State. \$1.

28 WEDNESDAY

"Trails on a tank"

Ideas about good places to camp, pack, and canoe within a gas tank's reach of Ann Arbor. 7 PM. Black Elk Supply, 120 E. Washington. Free. 662-3965.

Albert Collins

Known as "the Texas Iceman," Collins is among the premier blues guitarists performing anywhere today. The tone he gets is so rough and gravelly, sharp as an axe in its pitch. Expect him to bring in a five-piece band including A.C. Reed on saxophone. Reed performed on Collins' new release "Frostbite" and several other Alligator Records sessions. Both are said to be extremely animated performers onstage as well.

9:30 PM. Rick's American Cafe. Tickets \$3 in advance (\$4 at the door) at Discount Records, Schoolkids' Records, Aura Sound and at Rick's. 996-2747.

31 SATURDAY

Photography lecture by Jerry Uelsmann

Slide talk, part of a symposium on collecting photographs. Uelsmann's surrealistic style, involving multiple prints in a single work, is internationally known.

7:30 p.m., Bixit Gallery, 229 Nickels Arcade. \$5. 662-0282.



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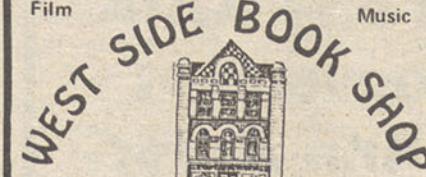
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Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti City Clerk's Office
1 S. Huron

Ypsilanti Food Cooperative
308 Perrin

Ypsilanti Public Library
229 W. Michigan Ave.



CHANGES

Selected reports on major changes in retail businesses
and noteworthy buildings



PETER YATES

Paul Kacer
and general
manager Linda
Rombardini

Coming soon: fresh food 24 hours a day

At Michigan Square, next to the park at Liberty and Division, the long-vacant first floor is alive with the whine of saws. Construction on a new restaurant is well underway — yes, even in these troubled times of restaurant failures and tight money, Ann Arbor is getting a big new restaurant, offering, we hear, moderately-priced family fare 24 hours a day. Over in the future no-smoking area of the 7000-square-foot space, sitting at an improvised field headquarters, is a tall, tanned man with curly hair, horn-rimmed glasses, and a plaid shirt. He's Paul Kacer, at 39 the president and general manager of the PanTree — "a distinctive family restaurant," as he likes to call it. He has a lot to say about his new Ann Arbor restaurant, the first spinoff of the original PanTree in East Lansing's former post of-

fice.

The PanTree offers a 150-item breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu, all of which are offered round the clock. Eggs (in the form of omelettes, quiches, and other egg dishes) form the basis of the menu, which also includes pancakes, crepes, burgers and other sandwiches, salads, and a limited menu of dinner entrees. Nearly all the food is prepared at the restaurant, Kacer points out. The PanTree, he says, is "a very successful concept, a merchandisable concept that will go in many markets," and he's already thinking about taking it on to Grand Rapids and Columbus, among other places.

"One of the reasons people don't start in 24-hour restaurants is they don't have the background. I got my experience in the East Lansing International House of Pancakes,

applerose



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and I'm very familiar with short-order cooking. We had the highest-volume in a chain of 350 for two years in the early Seventies, and we were 24 hours a day. There are two competing philosophies in our business: build the check or turn the table. We turn the table — serve people fast — and go for volume. That's why we don't care about having a liquor license. We served 10,000 customers and sold 10,000 eggs in East Lansing last week alone."

The PanTree concept, as Kacer describes it, reflects many restaurant trends of recent years, most notably healthier food with far more fresh fruits and vegetables, along with a bright, airy look and lots of plants. The Ann Arbor PanTree, with booths looking out over the adjacent park, will have a greenhouse theme. The menu, which Kacer likes to think of as a progressive version of Bill Knapp's, is the result of ideas collected — or swiped — by him, his wife, Bonnie, and co-partner and brother-in-law Jim Wade, who then work out the dishes in their home or restaurant kitchen. "Our Copenhagen Omelette [avocado, turkey, and Swiss cheese — \$3.50 with hash browns and toast or muffins] we got from the *Detroit Free Press*. We tried 23 versions of our Chicken and Broccoli Quiche [\$2.95 with soup or salad] before we got it right. We fill 1500 orders of quiche a week and sell 50 gallons of gazpacho [\$.95 a bowl] a week in summer. Probably our most popular plate is our Healthy Fruit Salad [fruit, cottage cheese, and vegetables for \$3.25]."

But in three striking ways the PanTree is an anomaly. First, of course, there's the round-the-clock operation, 24 hours, seven days a week. Second, the menu is very large, and third, nearly all of it is made

fresh on the premises.

"Everybody wants to go commissary today," Kacer explains. "Everybody wants to centralize their food operation, freeze the food and send it out. But somewhere along the line, you lose something. We figure the faster we can prepare and sell it, the fresher our food will be. It takes a real sharp purchasing agent to stay on top of a 150-item menu of fresh food, and I happen to have one in Annette Thomas." Kacer talks so fast, from enthusiasm rather than nervousness, that the listener almost wants to catch his breath. "Other places prepackage food for portion control to avoid waste. But there's no waste with an egg — you've got perfect portion control with eggs. And since 1975 an egg has gone up one cent in cost, while hamburger is up from 58 or 60 cents a pound to over a dollar. That's why we spend only 60% on food and labor, while 70% is average. We were in Institution Magazine's top 30 independents in food and labor costs last year. Obviously we're successful, or we wouldn't be expanding in a recession."

As a 24-hour restaurant, the PanTree is expected to have a varied clientele. The East Lansing campus-area restaurant is busiest between 2 a.m. and 4, just after the bars close, but Kacer is especially proud of his family trade. "Every high chair's in use on Sunday morning, and I have 5000 members in our Birthday Club for kids 12 and under. I think we can do the same thing here — draw a nice family business. Take my little boy — he loves eggs Benedict. That's a little sophisticated, I guess, but we also have our Young Person's Plate. A stack of three pancakes makes the face, with cherry eyes, a butter nose, a pineapple slice mouth, and sausage ears."



Betty Andoh

Imports from Africa

Andoh's African Imports has moved out of its tiny shop at 105 South Fourth Avenue (across from the Ann Arbor Inn) into much bigger quarters at 310 East Washington, next to Kolossos Printing. For owner-manager Betty Andoh, the move represents a personal creative commitment to the store, which she started three years ago at the urging of her husband, Charles. A Ford electronics engineer, he is from Ghana.

When Betty finished her education as a reading specialist at Wayne State, she agreed to start up the store, figuring that later she'd return to teaching. Charles combines buying trips with visits to his family in Elmina, Kumasi, and Takoradi in Ghana. Though the Andohs live in Inkster, Ann Arbor seemed like a good place to start the

store because no other stores here cater to the sizeable market for greeting cards and gifts oriented to black people. Greeting cards for blacks, unavailable elsewhere in town, have been a mainstay of the shop, which also carries records of African music; jewelry, clothing, weavings, baskets, and carvings from Africa; and an assortment of books ranging from UNICEF cut-outs of children around the world to political material on the Angolan civil war. As a former teacher, Betty takes a special interest in searching for teaching materials and does a considerable mail-order business in them and in records.

The records are Charles Andoh's department. He used to sell them directly by visiting clubs of African students at Midwestern universities. Big sellers are records of Nigerian and Ghanaian "High Life," a distinctive social dance music. (Caribbean Calypso music is based on High Life.)

But the shop's pieces de resistance are the magnificent colorful hand-woven cloth pieces. These long pieces of sewn-together strips in bold stripes and checks are folded to make toga-like garments for men and both headwraps and skirts for women. At \$265 to \$350 for hand-woven ones, they're not the kind of thing you'd have five of. In West Africa they're worn for special occasions only, then carefully cleaned and stored. Smaller, less expensive pieces can be worn as stoles and belts.

More space means Andoh's can add new items such as more clothing; Caribbean carvings, jewelry, shirts, and baskets; more magazines and picture postcards of African life; and more musical instruments like thumb pianos and drums. "You'd be surprised at the number of percussionists around," Betty says.

Hertler's Has It...



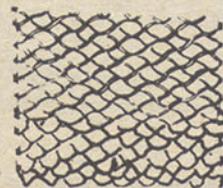
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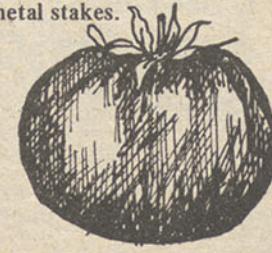
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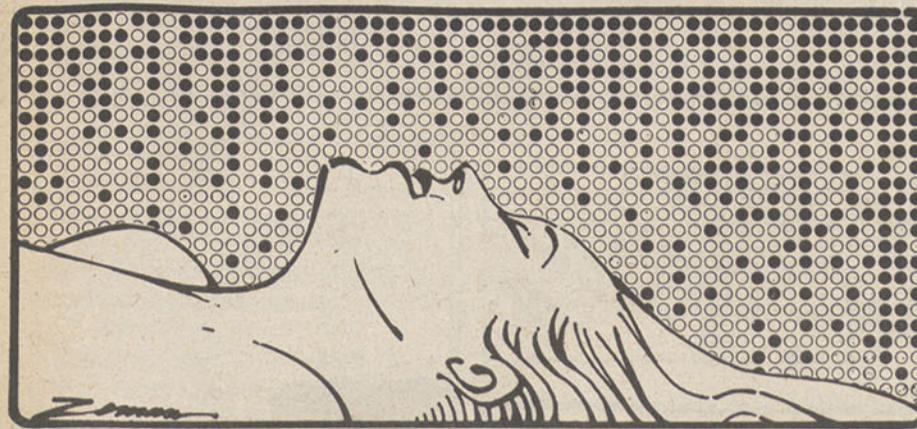
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CHANGES/continued

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Selling: sunshine: tanning booths hit Ann Arbor big

"Don't hold your breath waiting for the summer sun to tan you," warns an advertisement for **California Tan**, self-declared specialists in "developing and maintaining healthy, successful, and sexy looking tans." California Tan is just one of four new businesses in town that sell suntans accomplished without sun, usually in about ten sessions of two to ten minutes each. California Tan takes the bloom off a nice spring day by pointing out gloomily that "chances are, that even when summer does arrive, you will be able to tan only on weekends, that is, if the clouds, crowds, and sunburns don't discourage you first."

The mushrooming suntan salon industry originated in California and Florida, where a tan is apparently a prerequisite for social acceptance in many circles. The business appeals to people who want to look like they live on the beach or tennis court when they're really cooped up indoors from 9 to 5 each day.

Today's tanning technology has gone several steps beyond the old-fashioned sun lamp, which frequently used infrared light that burns rather than tans, according to the suntan industry people. Fourteen or so long ultraviolet fluorescent light tubes are placed vertically around the reflective aluminum interior of a booth in which the client stands. The booth permits complete exposure of the entire body in air-conditioned, sweatless privacy. Length of tanning sessions is determined by a chart developed by Westinghouse, manufacturer of the tubes, based on skin type. Patrons sign up for ten or twenty sessions at a cost of \$1.50 to \$2.25 a visit. Ten sessions over a twenty to thirty-day period should produce a tan; succeeding sessions maintain the tan and keep it from fading.

That's the basic idea. It's not new — dermatologists have used the method to treat psoriasis and acne for some time, and at much higher prices. The widespread commercial application and the big advertising build-up of suntan booths, however, is only about two years old.

Though the method is basically the same (except at TanFantastic Sun Huts) the ambience can vary greatly. At **Bahama Tan** on

State Street above Jason's Ice Cream Parlor, the jungle atmosphere is so intense you expect to hear a cockatoo screech at any moment. The two tanning booths are thinly disguised as thatched huts, and waiting patrons sit regally in fan-backed rattan chairs. The manager, an attractive woman in her twenties with a healthy, natural look, establishes a low-key, low-pressure atmosphere — after all, she says, "people don't want to mess with their skins."

Sun Fun!, located in a small office building at 1817 West Stadium (1 block east of Pauline) presents a much plainer appearance, and we were impressed with its careful lack of hype. Unlike any of its competitors, Sun Fun! does not guarantee a tan, and its array of sun protection paraphernalia (bottles of sun screen, tanning lotion, and moisturizer, along with goggles to protect the retina against ultraviolet light) was the widest of any place we visited. Manager Betty Caolette, a carefully put-together woman with frosted hair and a golden tan, claims no one burns at Sun Fun! because she increases exposure time slowly. Sun Fun's four booths attract a substantial clientele of both sexes and all ages over 18, remarkable only in the fact that all male patrons, whatever their ages, wore gold neck chains. (So, in fact, did every man we encountered in our suntan salon research.)

California Tan with seven booths is the largest local operation. Located across from the laundromat and next to Bob Ufer Insurance in Colonial Lanes Plaza on South Industrial, it's part of a San Diego-based chain. Its manager, a tall, handsome fellow with wavy blond hair, wanted to be anonymous, and he referred all our specific questions to the chain's owner in California.

TanFantastic Sun Huts, Inc., Ann Arbor's newest operation is in Maple Village Shopping Center next to the Little Professor book store. TanFantastic's system differs significantly from the others'. Patrons get only a quick, 15-to 30-second hit in the vertical tanning booths "to condition" the skin by bringing the melanin (pigment) to

the surface. (Tanning is caused by the body producing melanin to block harmful sun rays from entering the body and causing cell damage.) The client, clad in one of the parlor's beach robes, then strolls over to a larger tanning hut and lies on a tanning table, a contraption of European design which works something like an old-fashioned iron mangle without actually touching the person to be tanned. The patron lies on the table's bottom part, and the top half is tilted close to the body for a sandwich effect. Light tubes in a wood and plexiglas housing are what make the thing work, and the TanFantastic people claim that 99.6% of the harmful ultraviolet rays are filtered out, producing a tan without burning. Having been prepped in the booth, the client is cooked slowly on the table, which emits some heat dispersed by a fan. 10 minutes on stomach and back, 5 for each side — and a guaranteed tan is the eventual result. TanFantastic's slow-cooker method costs more — \$60 for 10 visits. But TanFantastic company rep Gary Mullins, an effective salesman of the laid-back, naturally pleasant variety, seems convinced and convincing that it's "the right procedure," much safer, he maintains, than the tanning booths. He then points to a letter of endorsement by country singer Dottie West, who received her tan in Nashville and planned to "dash in to your locations along my tour" to maintain it.

The psychological benefits of suntans were stressed by all the people we talked to. "People feel better when they look good," we heard again and again. "Let's face it, people are naturally vain" was a franker statement of the same idea.

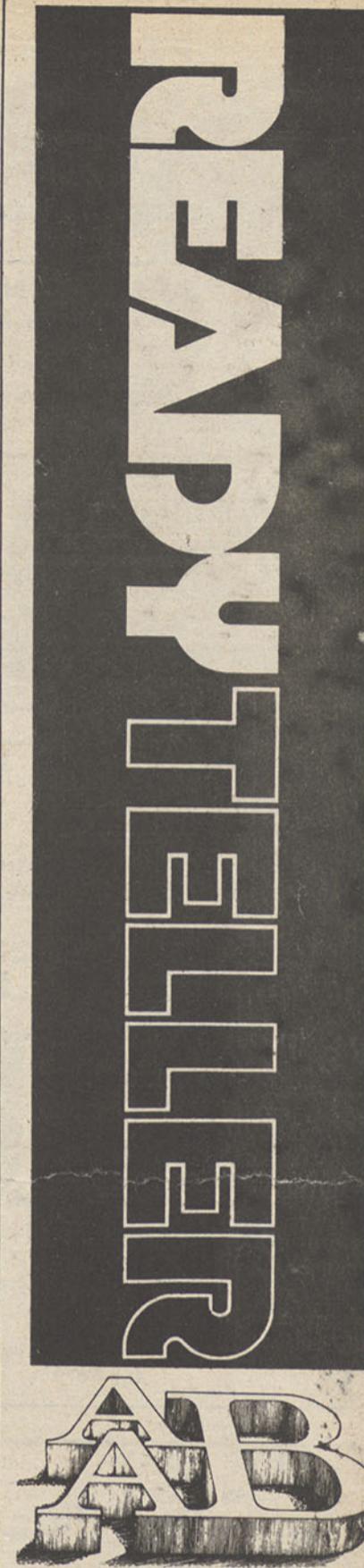
But that tan today, whether acquired outside or inside, could create health problems later. Over-exposure to sunlight can cause skin cancer and premature aging of the skin. What about artificial tanning methods, we asked a U-M plastic surgeon who treats patients suffering from these problems. "If you are convinced that you have to get a tan," he advised, "there is no good data that natural sunlight is more or less harmful. There is some suggestion that the tanning booths may be safer, especially for those people not genetically programmed to get tan — that is, Northern European Caucasians." He stressed that the sun's effect is cumulative and that skin cancer may not show for twenty years in the people tested for exposure to the Westinghouse ultraviolet tubes.

With suntanning as with smoking, you can play the statistics game for yourself, knowing that exposure has been proven harmful. If you opt for the conservative approach and the pale look, console yourself by remembering that fashion in skin tones has always been no more than a sign of the conspicuous consumption of leisure time. Scarlett O'Hara's snow-white hands and arms showed that she didn't have to work, and today's tan suggests that a person can afford to spend ample time on the beach, golf links, or tennis courts.

of the federal court. Three of owner Ned Duke's subsidiaries (Bloom's, the 11-year-old bar Mr. Flood's Party, and The Gallery, a wine room above Bloom's) will remain operating while being reorganized and, it is hoped, on their way back to solvency. **Cafe Creole**, on the other hand, has closed. There was a notice from the City Treasurer for \$9,852 of unpaid taxes for 1978, 1979, and 1980 on its door. Cafe Creole was an ambitious venture, in-

volving a total renovation of the building at 111 Catherine and an original menu of Louisiana specialties.

Another restaurant owner commented that when inexperienced independents try a new restaurant concept, they have to get most things right the first time, and that's tough. Recession-wary consumers are reevaluating discretionary purchases like eating out, putting extra pressure on restaurants which have just spent a lot on renovations.



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Assorted Notes

Two restaurants fell victim last month to the tough competition resulting from the great Ann Arbor restaurant boom of the late Seventies. For the elegantly appointed, 2½-year-old **Leopold Bloom's**, bankruptcy is expected to be only temporary. Its parent firm, Mr. Flood's Party, Inc., filed a petition for reorganization of its debt structure under protection

of the federal court. Three of owner Ned Duke's subsidiaries (Bloom's, the 11-year-old bar Mr. Flood's Party, and The Gallery, a wine room above Bloom's) will remain operating while being reorganized and, it is hoped, on their way back to solvency. **Cafe Creole**, on the other hand, has closed. There was a notice from the City Treasurer for \$9,852 of unpaid taxes for 1978, 1979, and 1980 on its door. Cafe Creole was an ambitious venture, in-

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GOOD DEALS

Summer foreign languages classes for kids

Recently a seven-year-old girl proudly demonstrated her newly-acquired Italian language skills to a host of admiring adults. Amazed at her near-perfect accent, they wondered if a kiddie-Berlitz had moved into town. Actually she was a product of the U-M International Center's foreign language classes for children aged 6-12, all taught by native speakers.

At \$30 for 20 hours of instruction (scholarships are occasionally available, too), and with a maximum enrollment of 12 per section, the classes seem like an incredible bargain. The International Center plans to offer six languages — French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, and possibly Arabic — in its intensive five-week summer course which begins June 16.

The premise of the classes is that language learning should be fun. The curriculum includes games, songs, spoken materials, together with written work for advanced, older students. An added benefit is exposure to another culture through a native instructor. Furthermore, Bill Marion, the program's director, points out that "there's no question that kids learn languages a lot better when they're young."

Children are grouped by age (6-8 and 9-12) into beginning, intermediate and advanced-level classes which meet, courtesy of the program's affiliation with the Ann Arbor Public Schools' Continuing and Community Education Programs, in elementary schools around town. Location depends on where most of the students live.

Interest in the classes, says Marion, has been such that the number of sections has increased from just seven last October to 22 in the current program. During the academic year, the International Center runs three ten-week sessions; plans for fall include the possible addition of Russian and Chinese.

For information on the program, or to register a child for the June-July session, call Bill Marion afternoons at the International Center, 764-9310.

Cheese at the co-ops

The People's Food Cooperatives probably offer the best prices on quality cheese in town, as three readers let us know last month after our article comparing the four best-stocked specialty cheese purveyors (Big Ten, Dunham-Wells, Arbor Farms, and Kroger's Deli). The surprising results of our price comparison: Big Ten and Dunham-Wells are significantly cheaper than Kroger.

Well, in fact, the co-ops are cheaper still. The selection isn't as large — about 30 varieties are stocked—and irregular, though improving. If you don't see what you want, ask.

The co-ops order cheese mostly from a Wisconsin co-op warehouse, then cut and wrap it themselves. All their cheeses are free from chemical mold retardants and artificial dyes. (That cheery, cheesy yellow is actually food coloring, not a natural cheese color.) Some co-op cheeses are made without animal rennet — of interest to strict vegetarians — and some are made with unpasteurized milk. Refer to the store's chart for product information.

Anyone can buy at the co-ops, which are

located at 722 Packard near State and at 212 North Fourth Avenue near Ann. Discounts can be earned by contributing work (an hour's work at any local food co-op earns a working discount towards \$20 worth of merchandise at any co-op) and by being a co-op member (which requires a \$10 refundable fee and a 1-hour orientation session).

Here are the prices on selected cheeses, as reported by Arieh Tal in late March. (Thanks also to Denise Chrysler for her suggestion.)

	retail price per pound	with discount	member price with working discount
Colby	\$2.08	\$2.00	\$1.71
Muenster	2.09	2.01	1.72
Brick	2.10	2.02	1.73
Mozzarella	2.15	2.07	1.77
Mild cheddar	2.16	2.08	1.78
Camembert	2.29	2.21	1.89
Gouda	2.32	2.23	1.91
Sharp cheddar	2.41	2.32	1.99
Swiss (Spee — a sharper, rennet-less Swiss made with pasteurized milk)	2.44	2.35	2.01
Feta	2.60	2.50	2.12
Havarti	2.93	2.82	2.41
Romano	3.18	3.06	2.62
Jarlsberg	3.52	3.39	2.90

The Fireside Country Store at 410 West Huron offers similar prices on a limited selection of cheeses.

Why Big Ten's coffee prices are the best

In the past few years, many people have become much more sophisticated about coffee. One overhears long discussions about different kinds of beans, coffee pots, and roasts. In Ann Arbor the day of the percolator and Maxwell House seems to be gone. Even Kroger now sells unblended beans as well as the usual blended beans and instant.

When you buy a blend, you are buying several types of beans which the maker tries to keep as consistent as possible, substituting only when necessary. Many people prefer to drink a straight version of one of the classic beans, such as Colombian, or to blend it with dark roast for a stronger, richer flavor, or to grind it extra fine and brew it in an espresso machine.



In addition, there are more exotic expensive beans known for their fine, rich tastes. These can cost twice as much as normal breakfast-type coffee beans. Recently novelty beans flavored with coconut, rum maple, etc., have come into the picture. While scorned by the true coffee fanatic, most of us may be intrigued by the idea.

Towner Associates, the wholesalers associated with Big Ten, supply most of the other retailers in town. They order their coffee from White House Coffee in New

York, who then roast it and send it out. About fifteen other area retailers buy through Towner. Theirs seem to be the best coffee beans available.

Big Ten carries the greatest variety, about fifty types of beans, with a base price of \$3.98, ranging upward to \$4.50 for flavored beans, \$5.69 for Kona (Hawaiian — the only fine American coffee), and \$6.98 and \$7.98 for Jamaican, the last word in connoisseur's coffee. Kitchenport in Kerrytown also offers White House beans — 25 kinds of beans, at a base price of \$4.25. Complete Cuisine's twelve varieties and blends begin at \$4.60. A&P offers only its own blends of beans ("8 o'clock" at \$2.99/lb., "Red circle" at \$3.09). Kroger's Deli sells unblended coffee beans, at prices starting at \$4.75 a pound. —Marty Wolf

Tennis courts, with reservations, at budget rates



Eleven U-M tennis courts behind the Track and Tennis Building can be reserved ahead of time, and you don't have to pay much to use them, Stefan Schnitzer writes. Anyone can use them during the summer, and rates are \$2 an hour for non-members, \$1 for members. Membership fees (for tennis only, May through August) are \$4 for students, \$6 for faculty, and \$8 to the general public. Call 763-5088 to reserve courts — but not more than a day ahead. No reservation is necessary if courts are available, and it's not usually hard to get a court. Only about half are booked ahead. The Track and Tennis Building is reached by car from South State next to the Yost Ice Arena; it's near the train tracks, the last building in the athletic complex.

Tennis is free at city courts, but on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are 36 courts at 14 locations around town. A list of all parks, available at the Parks Department office in City Hall, tells which have tennis courts.

Flavor by the drop

Essential oils for flavoring are highly-concentrated essences of real foods, not artificial flavors. They come in tiny bottles, in almost all common flavors — including anise, almond, peppermint, rum, cinnamon, even chocolate — and they will stay potent on your kitchen shelf for years.

Measured by the drop, they are chemically important in candymaking, where quantities of unconcentrated flavorings would interfere with the process of sugar crystallization. It can also be fun to experiment with essential oils in making desserts — say, to add a minty taste to chocolate chip cookies.

Most oils come with recipes. You buy them at drugstores. Richardson's has two-dram bottles at \$1.49 and \$1.79. Mindell's Pharmacy on Carpenter Road has almost every imaginable essential oil in practical one-dram bottles for \$.69. Other drug stores have them, too.

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For Sale

Antiquers: you are cordially invited to SHARON MILLS ANTIQUES at 5701 Sharon Hollow Road, Manchester MI; a former grist mill, restored by Henry Ford with its own water-powered generator. (313) 428-8200.

Antique oak pump organ for sale. In good condition. 994-0621.

Attic Treasure Sale: May 6, 9-5; May 7, 9-1. Fireside Room First United Methodist Church, State & Huron. Toys, crafts, linens, household items, suede coats, collectibles. Proceeds to House by the Side of the Road.

Yard Sale. Saturday May 3, rain date May 4. 10-4 at Children's Community Center, 317 N. Seventh. 663-4392.

Steel frame windows approx. 2X3'. 50 in stock. \$5 ea or \$150 all. Bob 995-0612.

Refinished Mahogany Victrola - Edison. "His Master's Voice" circa 1920. \$25. Case only. 971-2233.

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Karate Ghi, heavyweight size 6. \$20. John 663-5552.

Kitchen Cabinets - ten cabinet display marked down from \$2089 to \$995. Nevamar formica, color daffodil yellow, white knobs. Custom Counters & Kitchen Studio. 668-7078.

IBM Standalone Composer, 60 fonts. Excellent condition. Call the Ann Arbor Observer, 769-3175.

Zenith TV, 19" black & white. Needs slight repair. \$15. 665-4040.

Lenses for M series Leica. 35mm Summaron. 28mm Cannon with finder. \$125 each. Call 761-3099.

Wanted

2 mothers with 3 children (2 & 10 months and 2 yrs.) seek woman to sit 8AM-1:30 PM in pleasant Old West Side home with nice yard. Healthy food, wholesome environment, limited, TV a must. Excellent part-time opportunity for mother of preschooler to earn money and be with your child. Call 769-3899 9 AM-noon.

Wonderful babysitter with flexible schedule wanted for 5 yr. old in Old West Side. 769-8384.



Need supplementary income? Expanding my business. Looking for a few sharp people. Immediate supplementary income and tremendous growth potential. 971-8780.

Dreams bigger than your paycheck? If you're ambitious and interested in establishing a second income, call 973-0433.

Several energetic people to become first-class gardeners. Women & men honored equally. [Demonstrated ability to do quality physical labor required.] Some experience with nature helpful. Call 668-8476 for appointment.

C.O.A. Clowns wanted to form local chapter. Call 662-0033.

Wanted: source for second-hand German books, pre-1933, Lit., Hist., Phil. 971-9594.

Energetic, intelligent person to run small typesetting agency. Excellent potential earnings. Send resume to Ann Arbor Observer, 206 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

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Garden Tilling. Let me come and Rototill your garden this year for a price comparable to renting a tiller yourself. Call Bob at 995-0612 or 663-6468.

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Professional Quick Typing and Editing. Rackham Standards. Typing \$1 pg. Editing \$5 hr. 995-0524.

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Scott, Mackey - McGee Bookkeeping systems for small businesses 663-3036, 663-2060.

Professional Typing. Linda 761-8842.

Wedding music - Jan Smarr 995-9781.

Mirage - Intensive dance workshops - modern and improvisation 5/12-16. Aft. and eves. info: 668-0295.

Real Estate



Condo for rent: mid-June to September 1. 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths, kitchen with all appliances, inclosed patio, full basement, air conditioning, fully furnished, \$125 per week, including utilities. 764-2516 or 668-8652 after 6.

SUBLET - 2 persons wanted to share spacious, attractive 4-bedroom house with one other person. Close to campus, completely furnished, including dishes, color TV, stereo and free washer and dryer. Off-street parking, small yard and screened porch. Rent negotiable. May—August. Call Tom at 994-6647.

BROOKSIDE is a small friendly apartment community located on a picturesque brook just 3 minutes from downtown on Plymouth Rd. Spacious modern apts. All conveniences. Heat paid. Air-conditioning. One bedroom - \$285; two bedrooms - \$330. No pets. 668-8367

Announcements

Children's Community School - Elementary Fall Enrollment. Meet with parents and staff. Michigan League (U-M) Rm 3A. Thurs. May 15, 4-5 and 7:30-8:30.

CCS Open House. Sunday June 1. 317 N. Seventh St. Ann Arbor. 663-4392.

Take advantage of our INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE. We think this timely TENT SALE will incite you to visit us in the next two weeks. The time to save on furniture is NOW! BEVERLY FURNITURE Co. has erected a tent 40X100 at our showroom store at 1001 MIDWAY in Ypsilanti between Holmes and Clark Rd. which will give us a total of 30,000-square-feet of display area. We will offer to you our complete inventory from the store, warehouses, old layaways, floor samples, factory closeouts, slightly damaged pieces and buyers' mistakes. All will be offered at great discounts, cost and below-cost.

This sale will start May 5 at 1 PM and will be in progress until May 18.

Bring your truck or station wagon to pick up bargains. For your convenience the showroom and tent will be open until 9 PM every day and from 12-6 PM on Sunday.

Personals

Fred - Happy Birthday! May 10 or 20. A

K.T. C.U. - M

Nancy and Mike B. - Baltimore's gain is truly Ann Arbor's loss. You will be greatly missed by all your friends, which is most of the city. — Tom W.

My love always, MATZOH MAN.

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At the completion of the Smoke Stoppers program you will find that you are once again your own person. You will be completely free from the need to smoke. And all it takes is five days... five informative hours... and the first session is free.

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Mon., May 12 at 1:30 pm or 7 pm or
Tues., May 13 at 1:30 pm or 7 pm

To preregister for one of these meetings, call 994-3329 or 994-3413

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital is sponsoring this program for the general public at a specially reduced fee. All meetings will be held at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center.

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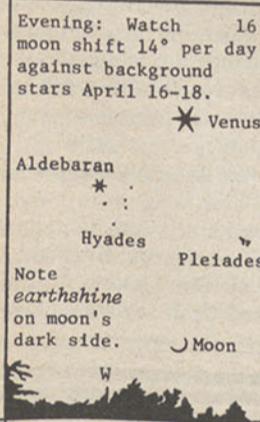
GOOD DEALS/continued

Naked-eye stargazing

Stargazing with the naked eye or with binoculars is certainly one of the most affordable pastimes imaginable, one which also puts human events in the proper cosmic perspective.

To help amateur stargazers get a handle on the great nightly show in the sky, the Abrams Planetarium at M.S.U. publishes a monthly sky calendar with diagrams and times for our latitude and longitude. One side of the sheet is a chart showing the stars of a typical evening sky for the month. The sky calendar on the other side shows daily locations of planets and their moons, described verbally and in tiny diagrams. If you've never been able to tell a planet from a star but want to learn how, this is for you.

To receive the Sky Calendar (mailed four times a year in batches of three), write Abrams Planetarium Sky Calendar, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824. Enclose a check (to Michigan State University) for \$2. Or pick up free xeroxed copies at the Ann Arbor Public Library reference desk.



Free! Where to go in Michigan

A raft of free publications offer fairly up-to-date information on places to visit in Michigan.

By writing State Representative Perry Bulard, House of Representatives, Lansing, Michigan 48909, you can obtain these following useful publications. Request each one you want by title.

Michigan Highway Transportation Map. A road map including several features not always found: a table of mileages between 72 Michigan towns and cities; list of fares for bridges and tunnels; list of state police posts; table of state parks and their facilities; and detailed insets of the Detroit-Ann Arbor metro area plus fifteen other places.

Michigan Calendar of Travel Events. A booklet covering six-month periods — October through March or April through September. It includes a big variety of events that can be scheduled way ahead of time — from art fairs and antique shows to festivals, county fairs, sporting events, home tours, music, dance, and dramatic events, to hunting seasons for 14 kinds of game. Concise — handy format.

Michigan State Forests Campground Directory. 33 state forests, where camping is mostly free and only available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Michigan Museum Guide (1977 — hours may not be current. Call to check.) Concise listings of museums and galleries, their contents, hours, and facilities. Useful but not entertaining reading.

Michigan's Historic Attractions. An informative, illustrated guide to many historic sights, county by county. Interesting reading. Some are open to the public, some not. Irritating lack of hours and phone numbers for museums — could be compensated for by referring to the *Michigan Museum Guide*.

From the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 3050 Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Request desired publications by name and enclose 20 cents for mailing.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks and Five-County Road Map. Maps to 10 parks, including three just up the Huron River from Ann Arbor, and a useful detailed road map for Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Large map also shows State Recreation Areas clearly.

Huron River Canoeing Maps. Four maps show portages, boat access, nearby roads, and park facilities. Helpful canoeing tips for specific areas. Hudson Mills Metropark has two canoe campgrounds not reachable by auto. Canoes can be rented at Delhi Metropark.

Better than store bought—easy, and cheaper, too!

Can yet another \$12.95 cookbook be a Good Deal? We think *Better Than Store-Bought* by Helen Witty and Elizabeth Schneider Colchie qualifies. The publisher is Harper & Row.

This book wasn't written to save home cooks money. It is a collection of recipes for foods that people almost always buy ready-made and that the authors feel tasted better back in the days when they were made at home. However, many of the preparations come out costing dramatically less than their commercial counterparts.

In the book are recipes for such staples as hamburger and hot dog buns, bagels and bialys, zwieback, cream cheese, garlic salt, deviled ham, Graham crackers, chili and curry powders, and half-sour pickles. There are directions for making your own convenience mixes for puddings, gingerbread, pancakes, and waffles. There's even a recipe for marshmallows — "ridiculously cheap and easy." The recipe for a good sourdough black pumpernickel alone may be worth the price of the book to home bakers.

Ten categories from meat and fish to candies and confections are touched on. The directions are clear, and the writing is elegant.

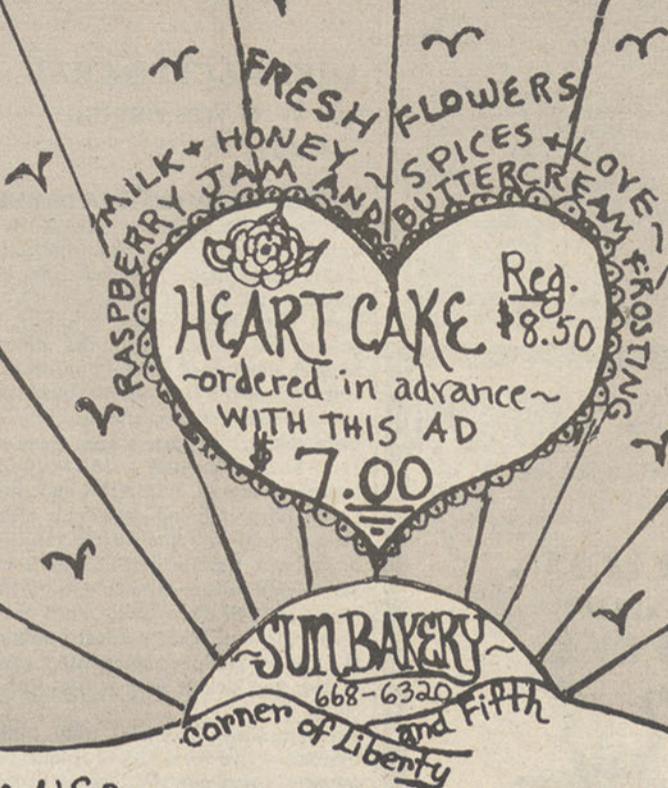
Not yet widely stocked in area bookstores, *Better Than Store-Bought* may have to be special-ordered. Borders had a few in March.

Win \$5 — suggest a deal!

What are some good deals you know about? We'll pay \$5 for each suggestion we accept. Write to "Good Deals," Ann Arbor Observer, 206 South Main, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Include details on availability, characteristics, and price of the proposed good deal in relation to similar products or services.

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PETER YATES

THE CRACKED CRAB

122 West Washington

769-8591

Description: Spacious, somewhat dark room with white tile floor and wainscoting, bentwood chairs, and "marble" topped tables in the nonsense style of East Coast cafes featuring fish. Meals also served in the adjoining bar with booths and tables, where the atmosphere is brighter and livelier. Country music, often loud, especially in the bar. Service quick on several visits, painfully slow on another.

Price range: a la carte dinner menu with fish, \$4.95-\$7.25; shellfish, \$6.25-\$10.95; combination plates at \$7.25 (fish and shrimp) and \$11.25 (king crab and steak) plus specials from \$3.95 (smelt) to whitefish (\$6.95). All include potato and slaw or salad. Appetizers: \$3.15-\$4.95. Sandwiches available over the dinner hour, \$1.95-\$3.95. Lunch: much the same as dinner menu at slightly reduced prices. Specials (\$3.25-\$4.95) at lunch come with a glass of wine or beer and include slaw or fries with the main choice.

Recommended: Excellent, truly fresh-shucked oysters — five for \$2.95. Top-quality steamed mussels. Good non-sweet tartar sauce. Shrimp with no tinge of iodine. High marks for freshness for everything tried.

Hours: M-Th 11 to 11; Fri. and Sat. 11-12 midnight; Sun. 5-11; No reservations. Major credit cards.

Wheelchair access: Barrier free.

By ANNETTE CHURCHILL

When the Cracked Crab opened in December of 1970 in the place on West Washington vacated by the old Town Bar, it was Ann Arbor's first seafood restaurant, beating the Gandy Dancer to the honor by two weeks. It quickly earned a reputation for high-quality fish and seafood, simply prepared and offered at low prices. People loved the place — both the food and the atmosphere.

In its early years the Cracked Crab, with its lack of formal decor and its look of studied neglect, came off looking fashionable. The old bar seemed not to have been renovated or adapted to its new use in any way. A few fish nets hung limply here and there. Clusters of low-watt light bulbs shone dimly from high up near the ceiling. Paper plates and flimsy plastic

tableware helped put the Cracked Crab solidly in the tradition of the inexpensive, pier-side fishing shack restaurants along our coasts where one point alone is made — that the fish is unimpeachably fresh.

Four years ago the Cracked Crab took over Flick's Bar next door, retaining its original space for its own bar. New ceilings and black-and-white tile floors and wainscoting were installed, in a style which some customers have described as similar to a public lavatory. In fact, the place has the traditional look of hundreds of old East Coast cafes that feature a fish menu. The old Joe Muer's in Detroit was similarly surfaced in white tile.

Now a few tasteful seascapes and fishermen's artifacts hang on the walls. Booths with tables topped with imitation marble, and bentwood chairs at freestanding tables, finish the picture. Quite a few fans of the old Cracked Crab say they liked it better

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PETER YATES

before it was slicked up and expanded into a 130-seat restaurant, but not me. Now you can always get a seat, and I'm glad the plastic tableware is gone. The place now has a certain plain charm.

Prices are up at the Cracked Crab since the early days but not as much as at some places. You can still eat a satisfying meal for less than five dollars at night if you stick to specials. The main thing to report to people who have not visited it for some time is that the old high quality of ingredients has been maintained. The freshness of the fish simply cannot be faulted. The cooking is utterly simple, so plain that almost no seasoning seems to be employed. It's up to customers to wield the condiment shakers and ask for more lemon. Tartar sauce is miraculously unsweet and tangy with sour pickle.

Among the appetizers, special mention should be made of the oysters (five in number) served raw on the half shell (\$2.95 at noon, \$3.15 at night.) Plump and icy cold,

they are so fresh that they still retain a briny flavor from the sea. You can mask them with chili sauce and horseradish if you want, but those I had were good enough to eat plain or with three grains of pepper and one drop of lemon juice. Steamed mussels were excellent — impeccably clean and all plump and spruce-looking after being only briefly steamed, but again — absolutely no seasoning. Mussels really need a little something in the way of garlic or herbs or wine in the steaming liquid, but by going to work on the dipping broth with salt and lemon I perked them up a bit, and I really enjoyed the eighteen that constituted an appetizer serving (\$3.95).

Clam chowder (\$.95) was tasty, and if it was made with commercial clam base, I can only say it was very hard to tell. The chowder is of the Rhode Island type, made with milk but not rich with milk and cream like the classic version. It contains quite a few potatoes and it is thickened, which I mention for those people who like thin chowder.

Three cooking methods are employed in the preparation of the fish and seafood: deep frying (beer batter), steaming, and broiling. From the broiler I had monkfish (\$6.25), which because of its thickness needs special attention paid to its timing. It was excellent. From the steamer I had the Sea Maid sandwich (\$1.95) — a piece of haddock served open faced. Again, it was timed to perfection. King crab legs (\$9.25) were a very large portion, and moistly delicious, again from good timing. Smoked and salty finnan haddie on a butter-soaked crouton had the same tender succulence.

From the deep fryer I tried only shrimp — four large ones served at lunch on a toasted bun (\$3.25). They were dipped in

beer batter and came out with that slight crunch that signals a truly fresh shrimp cooked exactly the right length of time. Deep-fried onion rings tasted good, but the craggy batter coating, though crisp, had grease-holding crannies that harbored lots of cooking oil. One other item from the fryer deserves mention. The fried potatoes served at the Cracked Crab are made from medium thin slices of Idaho potatoes cut with the skin on. The result is fried potatoes with a texture half way between potato chips and pan fries, loaded with potato flavor. They are excellent. Cole slaw is sweet and not very sour, but it is crunchy and fresh.

One disappointment is the high percentage of items listed on the menu that turn out to be unavailable. Among them are interesting sounding things like smoked Baltic herring, fisherman's salad, and Cajun-style gumbo. Without these slightly exotic items the menu is plainer than plain. Two desserts — parfait made with a full ounce of liqueur (\$1.95) and Cathy's celebrated cheesy-tasting cheese cake from Detroit (\$1.95) — round it out.

Prices at the Cracked Crab are modest. A good martini at \$1.65 is typical. Luncheon specials of seafood sandwiches on bread or toast come with a glass of wine or beer and a choice of slaw and fries or soup. They are an excellent value at \$3.25 to \$3.75, with shrimp alone up there at \$4.95. The evening menu thoughtfully includes the same sandwiches at luncheon prices or a shade higher. Three evening specials — fish and chips, smelts, and a vegetarian alternative, all with potatoes and slaw or salad — are under \$4.

The Cracked Crab is plain and unpretentious. Within the narrow limits of what it tries to do, it does a good job. □



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In her honor, we're featuring a Mother's Day addition to our menu: Duck à l'orange, prepared to perfection and beautifully garnished — for only \$7.95. We'll also be offering our usual assortment of all-star entrees.

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THEN & NOW



Bill Tuomy in characteristic winter garb.



Ann Arbor's Manorial Gas Station

By ANNETTE CHURCHILL

The little stone house with the two covered carriage entrances stands in the sharp angle where Washtenaw Avenue and Stadium Boulevard come together. It looks like a gatekeeper's cottage, the last remnant of a once vast estate that long ago was subdivided and put to other use. With its stone exterior, slate roof, and sturdy oak pillars supporting the roofs of its two separate portes cochère, the house looks solid enough to last for centuries.

But it's not a gatekeeper's cottage, and it never was an out-building on a large estate. It was built as a gasoline station half a century ago, and it has always been one. It may be the only architect-designed, split-level, Cotswold-style filling station in the world.

Why was it built so well and in a residential style? The answer seems to lie in the character of Cornelius Tuomy, who built it.

"Bill" Tuomy, as he was called, operated the large Tuomy farm that straddled the ridge north of Washtenaw Avenue and extended down the southern slope where Tappan Intermediate School now stands. The farm continued for some distance

southeastward on the other side of Stadium Boulevard, which did not exist until the mid-twenties. Over the decades, Bill Tuomy sold off land from his farm as Ann Arbor spread eastward, and he always maintained the most scrupulous control over the quality of building that took place on it. In 1927, when he decided the area needed a filling station, he built one, applying the same standards he imposed on other builders on his land. He had a personal interest in how the neighborhood developed because his own home, which had belonged to his father before him, stood nearby at 2117 Washtenaw. A pleasant farmhouse with a big Victorian front porch, it now houses the Historical Society of Michigan.

□

Bill White has operated Tuomy Hills Service station in the little stone building for twenty-three years. He knew Bill Tuomy well. "Bill used to hang out down here a lot in his later years," White says. "The only reason I can give you for his building this place so strong is that that was the kind of man he was. He liked to do things right. Here, look — these walls are sixteen inches

thick — eight inches of brick faced with eight inches of stone. The inside walls are brick. The concrete floor we're standing on is eighteen inches thick. All these casement windows used to open outward, but we had to weld them shut to cut down on break-ins. Through that door with the arched top there's a stairway that leads to a bathroom half way up to the attic. And up under the roof are two small rooms you can hardly stand up in. They're about seven feet from floor to ceiling. Mr. Tuomy used to hire students in need of work to pump the gas, and those two little sleeping rooms were for them. The chimney openings have been closed off now, but in the early days there was a pot-bellied stove in the office and another one upstairs for the students. The heavy posts that hold up the roofs of the covered entrances are hand-hewn oak. The whole roof is heavy, high-quality slate. Everything about this building is top quality."

Bill Tuomy eventually became rich because his farm lay in the path of progress, but no one begrimed him his good fortune. He was one of those rare persons who is universally liked. He was always proud of

his filling station because it proved that such a necessary business could exist in a residential area and blend into it gracefully.

For a time Standard Oil, to whom he leased it, agreed with him. They proudly displayed a model of it in their exhibit at the Century of Progress exposition in Chicago in 1933-34. More recently, since Standard acquired ownership of the building following Bill Tuomy's death at 79 in 1966, they have periodically threatened to raze it in order to put up a more modern facility. The last time such a plan was in the wind, neighbors let them know they would have a battle on their hands if they even tried.

Lest anyone think Bill Tuomy's values were all centered on quality and that he was a man who grew rich by accident in spite of himself, it should be pointed out that he was mighty shrewd in his placement of the filling station. He began building it the very same day he signed the papers selling the right of way through his farm for Stadium Boulevard to the State of Michigan. When the new road was finished, the little stone filling station was finished too, sitting pretty in the angle where it could draw trade from the two eastern accesses to the city. □

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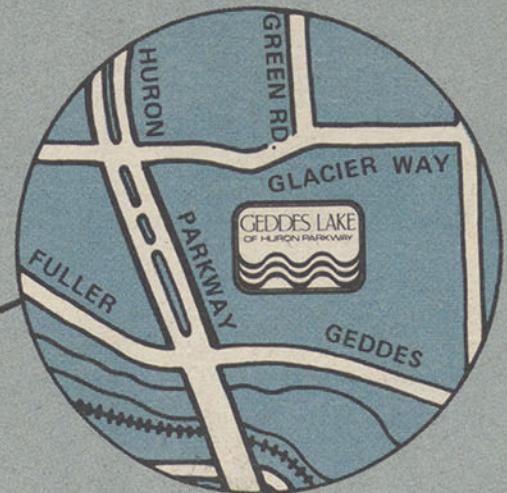
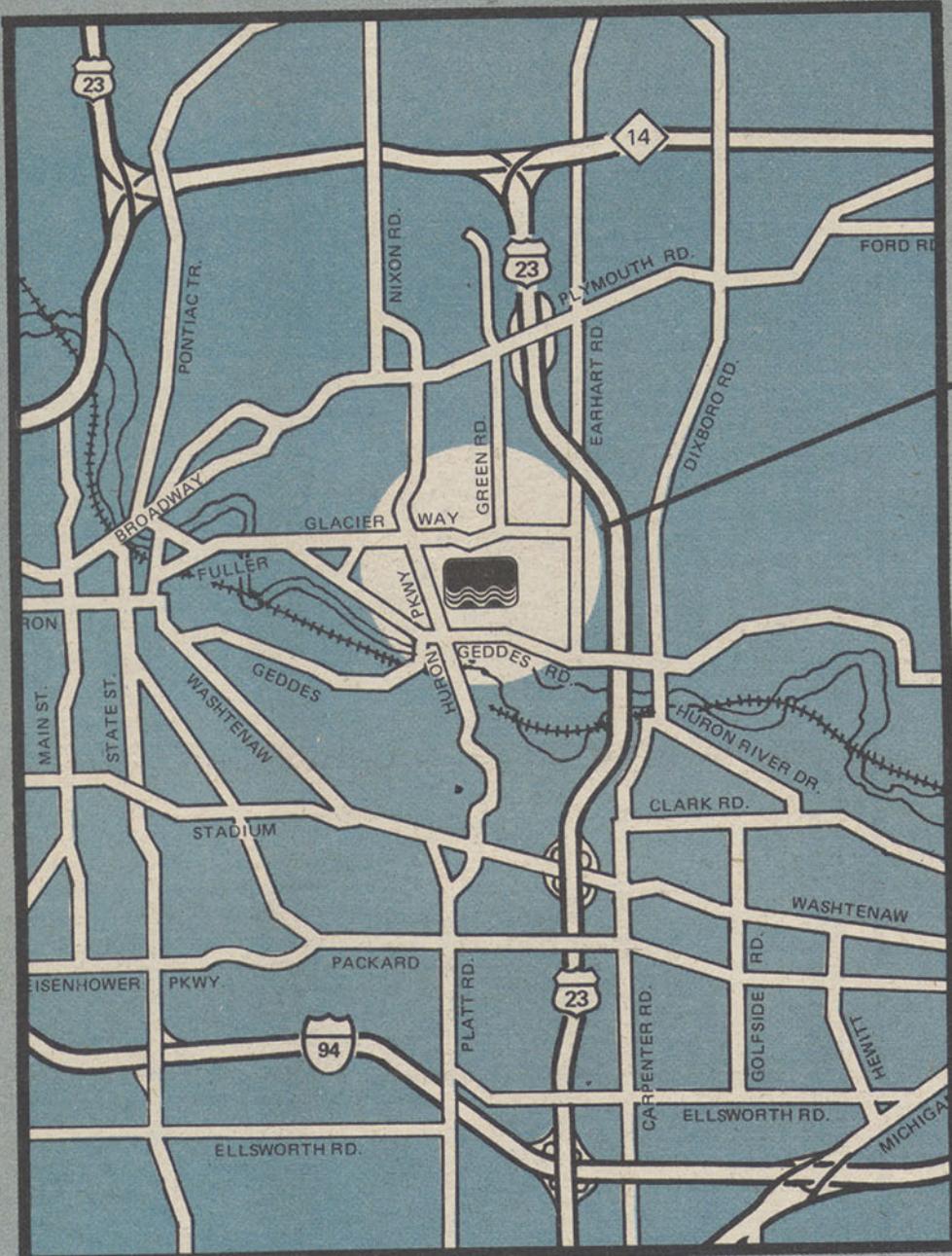
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